

Jordan Times

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Chemical weapons seized in Algeria

ALGERIA (AP) — A man described as a mercenary was caught trying to smuggle in materials that could be used for chemical and biological warfare, the official Algerian radio reported Monday. The radio identified the man as Abdel Wahab Bencheboun and said he was arrested Friday in the port of Dellys, about 100 kilometres east of Algiers. It said police found 200 kilos of "products used for the fabrication of chemical and biological weapons" hidden in his suitcase. It said Bencheboun also had what was described as chemical gear aboard. It described him as a "former harki," the word used for Algerians who sided with the French during Algeria's war leading to independence in 1962. The radio also said Bencheboun was a mercenary, but did not say who he might be fighting for or what nationality he now has. His cargo was described as "highly toxic," but the radio report did not give any details of how it might be used for chemical or biological combat. The radio also did not say whether Bencheboun had been charged, and no information was available immediately from authorities.

E. Germans continue protests

BERLIN (AP) — Thousands of East German reform activists protested in Leipzig Monday night to restate their demands for democratic changes, West German television reported. The protest came on the eve of Communist Party chief Egon Krenz's trip to Moscow for talks with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. West Germany's ZDF television network said "several hundred thousand" people had taken to the streets in Leipzig. The demonstrations in Leipzig in recent weeks have been the largest in the nation's 40-year history. Last week, 300,000 protested to pressure the new Communist leadership to adopt democratic reforms. East Germany's state-run news agency ADN late Monday confirmed that Krenz would travel to Moscow Tuesday. Krenz replaced hard liner Erich Honecker as Communist Party leader Oct. 18. Since then, officials have launched an unprecedented campaign of dialogue and openness aimed at winning public trust. In a speech to military academy graduates Monday, Krenz reaffirmed the Communist Party's leading role in society, saying it was "at the head of qualitative changes going on..."

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Crown Prince outlined major challenges facing the Kingdom 'Jordan needs self-reliance strategy'

IRBID (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday emphasised the need of a self-education and self-reliance strategy that would help Jordan deal with challenges of the future.

"This course of action can be best brought about through full participation of Jordanian universities, which can interact with the local communities," Prince Hassan said at a meeting with academicians at Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST).

In reviewing the future needs of Jordan and means to meet the requirements of the next decade, Prince Hassan said, Jordan confronts six major challenges.

The first, the change in the Jordanian society's behavioural patterns towards a society bent

on construction. "The country is facing increasing pressures which require a real change in our socio-economic behaviour, so that we can repay our external debts," reduce the deficit in the fiscal budget, regulate tax payments and our consumption," Prince Hassan said.

He said the country was in dire need of a change in attitude towards higher education and university degrees, an end to its excessive spending, concentration on productive work and involvement of the Jordanian workforce in any available job opportunities.

The second challenge facing Jordan, the Prince said, concerns matters involving the stimulation of the national economy. These should be handled in a national spirit and through interaction within the society's

various potentials. Jordan, he added, should be able to rely on its own resources and its own capabilities in the course of sustainable development.

The third challenge, the Prince said, concerned Jordan's central geographical location and the country's keenness on safeguarding higher Arab-Arab interests. Jordan, the Prince noted, strives to maintain an internal as well as external equilibrium and at the same time seeks to honour its commitments and to maintain its security and stability in the face of mounting regional threats and proposed solutions for regional issues at the expense of the Kingdom's stability.

Prince Hassan said the fourth challenge was represented in the ongoing re-adjustment

programme designed to construct a sound economic framework. "This is a temporary and passing phase and would come out successfully if we implemented sound plans," the Prince said.

The fifth challenge, he said, lies in confronting the extremist tendencies in society. "This, he said, "can be countered by enhancing the elements of constructive pluralism and offering the opportunity for all initiatives."

Prince Hassan underlined the role of the youth in the decision-making process.

He said that the country's sixth challenge was represented in facing future burdens with meagre resources and a growing population. He said the Kingdom was expected to be inhabited by 4.5 million people

by the end of the present century when the total number of its school students will rise to over 1.5 million.

Jordan's current water consumption rate stands at 700 million cubic metres and it is bound to double and its energy requirements will increase to 60 million barrels of oil up from the present 22 million, the Prince added. He said Jordanians would need 150,000 more housing units and the workforce will rise to 1.25 million up from 650,000 by the year of 2000.

Prince Hassan replied to questions in an open dialogue, which was attended by the president of JUST and Yarmouk University as well as heads of departments in both universities and other officials.



LEBANESE handicapped on Friday raise placards condemning the abduction of two Swiss International Red Cross (ICRC) workers in South Lebanon. The handicapped called for an immediate release of the two ICRC workers.

Israel to close W. Bank schools

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israel is to close schools in the occupied West Bank for two months from Nov. 13, the occupation authorities announced Monday.

The move means classes will be shut during the first anniversary of the Nov. 15 declaration of a Palestinian state and the second anniversary of the start of the uprising in the occupied territories Dec. 9.

The head of the West Bank "civil administration," Brigadier General Shaike Erez, announced that the current academic year, delayed by a prolonged closure of schools, would end on Nov. 1 and examinations would be held between Nov. 4 and 13.

He said the new school year would begin next Jan. 10.

Israel has kept West Bank

schools and universities closed for most of the 22-month-old uprising.

In another move, Israel is to end six weeks of property seizures from Palestinians refusing to pay taxes in the West Bank town of Beit Sahour, despite failing to break the revolt, sources said Monday.

"The operation will be completed tomorrow (Tuesday)," a source told Reuters.

Troops and tax collectors have confiscated cars, furniture and goods worth about \$1.5 million from residents of the middle-class town near Bethlehem, sparking international protests.

The area has been under siege since early September with troops turning away journalists, foreign consuls and clergymen. At least 30 merchants have been arrested

and face trial for non-payment of income and value added tax.

The residents adopted the slogan of the 18th century American revolution against British colonial rule: "No taxation without representation."

The army gave no explanation for calling off the seizures, less than a month after Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin vowed to break the tax rebels and "teach them a lesson."

An Israeli court Monday sentenced a Palestinian to jail for life for forcing the killing of 16 people by forcing their bus from a highway into a ravine.

Abdul Hadi Ghneim pleaded guilty to all counts, including attempted murder of 24 other passengers.

Beside the life terms, to run concurrently, the court sentenced

the attacker to 20 years' imprisonment on each of 24 charges of attempted murder.

Ghneim's attack was the bloodiest incident of the 22-month-old Palestinian revolt.

In protests in the occupied territories Monday, the correspondent for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) was shot in the leg by an Israeli soldier, a network spokesman said.

Jean-Francois Lepine was filming a clash in Gaza City between stone-throwing Palestinians and Israeli troops when he was struck by a rubber bullet, said Richard Bronstein, a CBC producer.

Lepine had his wound stitched at a United Nations clinic and was driven to Khan Younis hospital for further examination.

Military sources Monday reported the death of a West Bank

Palestinian injured in a clash with troops five days ago.

Hussein Ziad Zaharan Hasami, 24, was hit by a plastic bullet while preparing to hurl a rock at soldiers in Faraa refugee camp near Nabhus, they said.

Local Palestinians said troops shot Hasami in the back with live ammunition.

The Israeli army will soon begin deploying observation balloons equipped with cameras to pinpoint protests and other anti-Israeli activities stemming from the uprising, Israeli newspaper reported Monday.

The army spokesman's office declined comment on the reports, which said the unmanned balloons will be floated over refugee camps and other areas and transmit live photos to ground forces.

Soviets hint at flexibility in Mideast peace efforts

CAIRO (R) — A top Soviet envoy, visiting Egypt to raise Moscow's profile in Middle East peace efforts, hinted Monday that the Soviet Union might adopt a more flexible stance to break the deadlock.

Moscow was traditionally insisted that a full-scale peace conference should be convened to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

But Foreign Ministry official Gennady Tarasov indicated that the Soviet Union might also consider other proposals, including a U.S. formula for bringing Palestinians and Israelis together at a negotiating table in Cairo.

"I think they (other proposals) are all worth discussing," Tarasov told reporters after meeting Egyptian presidential adviser Osama Al Baz.

The United States has been trying to encourage Palestinians and Israelis to meet for what could be limited preliminary talks on elections in the Israeli-occupied territories.

The elections would choose Palestinians to hold further negotiations on an overall settlement.

But both Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) have strong reservations about the proposal, which centres

on a five-point formula put by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

Diplomats said Moscow could provide some chance of a breakthrough, both because of its improved relations with Washington and because of its more flexible stance on foreign policy issues.

"I think they have an important role," said retired diplomat Salah Bassiouni, Egypt's ambassador to Moscow until the end of last year.

"They used to be adamant on an international conference as a prerequisite for peace but it seems they are adopting a more flexible stance."

Tarasov, who was later to hold talks with Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel Meguid, said the Soviet Union was still also pressing its drive for a full-scale peace conference. "It is very much alive and kicking," he said.

Asked if Syria should also be involved in peace efforts, he said: "It would be idle to suppose one can even think of achieving a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East without involving all the parties concerned including Syria."

Algerian quakes kill 23, leave thousands homeless

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Two earthquakes struck northern Algeria minutes apart, killing at least 23 people and injuring 194, authorities said Monday.

The official radio quoted Interior Ministry sources as saying the death toll had climbed to 30, but officials said that could not be confirmed.

The tremors, at 8:15 p.m. (1915 GMT) and 8:27 p.m. (1927 GMT) Sunday, were estimated at 6.0 and 4.6 on the Richter scale by the National Centre of Astronomy and Geophysics in Algiers. Seismologists originally said the second quake also registered at 6.0 but later lowered the measurement.

Most of those killed were in the Tipasa region, about 70 kilometres west of Algiers and in the town of Churchill on the Mediterranean coast 100 kilometres west of the capital, the Interior Ministry said.

Interior Ministry officials said the death count at mid-morning Monday was 23 and that 19 people died in collapsing buildings in the Tipasa-Churchill area.

Several hundred angry residents blocked a main road at the

quake-hit town of Al Nador, west of Algiers, Monday morning to protest what they said was a feeble reaction by local officials.

The quake reduced to rubble 19th century farmhouses set among rolling hills and rich farmland in what used to be a major wine-growing region for French colonists.

Entire families were killed. Traumatized villagers told of flying refrigerators and chests of drawers, screaming women and children.

"It was a massacre," said 21-year-old Mohammed Bencheboun, who like the other 7,000 residents of Al Nador spent the night under the stars for fear of further quakes.

The Interior Ministry said that 19 people died in the quake zone and four in the capital, where six buildings collapsed and five caught fire, mainly in the old casbah.

At least 196 people were injured, the ministry said in a report distributed by the official news agency APS.

Officials said the toll could rise as news filtered in from isolated

villages in the coastal mountains.

Belkacem Termellet told Reuters he was having dinner when the quake rocked his newly completed house in Al Nador and sent appliances, glasses and suitcases flying.

"The house swayed from right to left. I heard children crying and bottles smashing. I rushed to get the children and fell through the staircase wall which was no longer there," he told Reuters.

Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche paid a midnight visit to Al Nador, one of the worst hit towns, and a crisis centre was set up in Tipasa, 12 kilometres away.

A mother and three of her four children were crushed to death in their ageing colonial farmhouse in Al Nador while preparing to sleep.

One resident, 60-year-old Khayat Fatima, was in the courtyard of her farmhouse after evening prayers when the top floor collapsed on top of her, killing her instantly.

Another family was wiped out in nearby Sidi Moussa, where 13 of the deaths occurred, state radio reported.

Peres accuses partners of procrastination

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Vice-Premier Shimon Peres accused his partners in Israel's coalition government Monday of wasting time by avoiding a decision on U.S.-proposed talks about Palestinian elections.

He said there was "almost pathetic" quibbling over the terms for the projected talks with Palestinians on elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, both of the rightist Likud party, have objected to two of the five points in U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's formula for Palestinian-Israeli talks in Cairo.

"The government of Israel never decided to reject Baker's initiative and never decided to accept it," said Peres, head of the Labour party, junior partner in

the coalition.

"We have to decide on steps, if we want a meeting or not. We shouldn't just waste time," he said on Israel radio after leaving hospital where he was treated for a urinary infection.

Israel has asked Baker to amend his formula to give it a veto over the Palestinian delegates and to ensure that the talks cover only Israel's own proposal for elections in the occupied territories.

Arens defended his approach in a speech to a meeting of British fund-raisers, saying Israel was under pressure to break its vow never to negotiate with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"What might seem like a simple task, setting the ground rules for a meeting to discuss election procedures, is not simple at all,"

Arens said.

"It has taken three weeks of letters and telephone calls trying to arrive at an agreed formula. We are not there yet. I hope we will be there. I think we may be getting close."

A foreign ministry spokesman said Monday that Baker had not yet sent Arens any modifications of his five-point proposal for talks.

The spokesman said he believed Baker was discussing the issue with Egypt.

Arens and Baker last talked Friday, the spokesman said. He described the conversation as a "positive one."

Arens told the gathering that it was difficult to reach an agreement on preliminary talks.

The conflict within the coalition came against a backdrop of concern over relations with the

United States.

Reports of American frustration at Israel's stance on the proposed election talks were followed last week by U.S. media charges that Israel had supplied nuclear weapons expertise and U.S. military technology to South Africa.

The Democratic and Republican leaders in the U.S. Senate both expressed concern Sunday about possible Israeli-South African cooperation in nuclear weapons.

Senate majority leader George Mitchell said, if the report were true, Washington should "strongly express its displeasure."

Among the options would be cutting aid, he said, although that was unlikely.

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin repeated Israeli denials of the alleged ties to South Africa

and dismissed the reports as lies deliberately spread in Washington.

"I don't want to get into the motivation or the timing of those who leaked or published this," Rabin told Israel radio.

Israel's alleged nuclear capability, interpreted the reports as a sign of American displeasure with Shamir's government.

U.S. President George Bush, while not confirming Israeli-South African nuclear cooperation, said Saturday such an arrangement would "complicate" U.S. relations with the Zionist state.

Rabin told Israel's cabinet Sunday that the media reports were untrue.

Cabinet Secretary Elyakim Rubinstein said Rabin raised the issue at a security briefing.

Iran, Iraq willing to restart peace talks but no sign of shift

NICOSIA (AP) — Both Iran and Iraq said Monday they hoped United Nations envoy Jan Eliasson could break the deadlock in the Gulf war peace talks, but neither indicated flexibility on the issues that have plagued the negotiations for over a year.

Eliasson is due in Iraq Tuesday to start a new round of shuttle diplomacy between Baghdad and Tehran.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said Iran welcomed the U.N. effort and Ali Mohammad Besharati, deputy foreign minister, said in an interview with the daily Jomhuri Islami that Tehran expects him to find a formula for resuming the talks.

But Besharati stressed that the U.N. Security Council should force Iraq to withdraw from 2,000 square kilometres of Iranian territory captured in the weeks before the eight-year war ended in a ceasefire Aug. 20, 1988.

His remarks to the government-run paper were carried by the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA). U.N. ceasefire observers estimate the Iraqis hold around 1,000 square

kilometres of Iranian territory.

In Baghdad, Al Jomhuriya newspaper said Iraq would cooperate with Eliasson.

"Stemming from Iraq's keenness to achieve peace with Iran, Iraq will respond favourably with the new U.N. move and will fully cooperate with the secretary-general's envoy," the government-run paper said in a front-page editorial.

Al Jomhuriya stressed that Iran's refusal to enter direct negotiation with Iraq and its refusal to release prisoners of war remain the major obstacles blocking the peace talks.

Iraq said Saturday that Iran's reluctance to commit itself to the peace process was underscored when it attacked an Iraqi tugboat, killing one crewman, in the northern waters of the Gulf last Wednesday.

Iran denied its forces had fired on the tugboat, although its navy was conducting manoeuvres in the strategic waterway at the time.

U.N. officials in Baghdad said Eliasson, special representative of Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, was not carrying any

specific proposals for the two-to-three-week shuttle.

But Western diplomatic sources in Baghdad said the U.N. envoy would concentrate his mission on convincing the two countries to start an immediate exchange of prisoners of war and will attempt to convince the Iraqis to withdraw from the Iranian territory it holds.

Iraq proposed last month that a prisoner exchange begin in isolation from the political negotiations, but Iran insisted that Iraq should withdraw from its territory first.

The deadlock has left an estimated 100,000 prisoners of war (PoWs) held by both sides languishing in prison camps. Only a few hundred ailing and disabled PoWs have been exchanged.

The peace talks have also bogged down in a dispute over the Shatt Al Arab waterway, the southern boundary between the two countries.

Baghdad insists there can be no advance in the peace process until Iran allows the waterway, Iraq's main outlet to the Gulf, to be reopened.

Khartoum to respect truce despite loss of border town

KHARTOUM (Agencies) — Sudan's military government, hit by the first major battlefield defeat since seizing power in a June coup, said Monday it was still committed to a unilateral ceasefire with southern rebels.

"The armed forces will be committed to the declared ceasefire except when it is facing aggression," Chief of Staff Lieutenant-General Isma'il Ibrahim Omar told the Sudan News Agency (SUNA).

Troops withdrew from Al Kurmuk in Blue Nile province due to heavy shelling by rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) from inside Ethiopia. The army vowed to retake the town.

State Radio Omdurman said the governor of the central region where the abandoned town is located has declared a state of mobilisation to assist the army recapture it. The town was held briefly by the SPLA two years ago.

It was the first major setback for the army since a 15-man military junta led by General Omar Hassan Al-Bashir seized

power in Khartoum in June. Bashir announced the latest ceasefire last week. It will end Dec. 4.

Diplomats said the junta appeared to be preparing for all-out hostilities in the south by the end of the year.

They said arms and ammunition were arriving in Sudan from China, Libya and Iraq. Bashir has visited Baghdad twice in the four months he has been in power.

Omar said troops would continue to repulse attacks by the SPLA and strengthen the 60,000-strong army.

The resumption of hostilities in December would coincide with the end of the rainy season when both sides could move with relative ease in most southern areas.

The SPLA says it is fighting to end what it sees as the unjust domination of the south by the north. It wants Sudan governed by secular rather than religious Sharia laws.

The only round of peace talks held between the SPLA and the junta in Addis Ababa in August ended in failure.

The SPLA, which has an esti-

mated 50,000 men, has captured at least one dozen army garrison towns in the south over the past year alone. It has besieged Juba, the largest southern town, since February.

In Khartoum, diplomats reported tension between police and the junta over Bashir's sudden retirement earlier this month of police chiefs and scores of officers.

The sackings followed a petition written by so far unknown policemen complaining about what they described as the army's interference in police work, the diplomats said.

"There is mounting tension between the two sides," one said.

Diplomats and Sudanese sources said it was now virtually impossible for Sudanese women to travel abroad unaccompanied by male chaperons — a husband, a brother or a father.

With exit visas already difficult to obtain for all Sudanese regardless of their sex, they said the new curbs on women's travel was probably yet another sign of the militant Islamic leaning of several



Omar Hassan Al-Bashir

junta members.

Earlier this month, the governor of Khartoum decreed that all shops and restaurants close down for two hours on Fridays during the weekly prayers.

Egypt said Monday it was trying to get the two sides in Sudan's civil war to resume peace talks.

At the same time, President Hosni Mubarak sent a senior minister to Khartoum to assure Bashir of Egypt's support.

In Cairo, the state minister for foreign affairs, Butros Ghali, said in a statement that Egypt was "following with interest" the battlefield situation at Kurmuk.

Turkey, Bulgaria begin Kuwait talks

KUWAIT (R) — Turkey and Bulgaria met in Kuwait Monday for their first high-level talks since more than 300,000 ethnic Turks fled from Bulgaria to Turkey last summer.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz described the first two-hour session as "encouraging."

Turkish diplomats said it dealt exclusively with the problem of Bulgaria's 1.5 million member Turkish minority, dispelling their fears the Bulgarians would raise a wide range of bilateral issues.

Bulgarian Deputy Prime Minister Georgi Yordanov declined to make a statement, telling reporters to be patient.

The two ministers met alone. A second round of talks was planned in the afternoon.

"This is the first meeting. We hope the meeting is like a bridge to cross the water," said Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, who as chairman of the 46-member Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) is hosting the discussions. "We have a lunch together. We will see which points they

reached. From this point we will continue," he told Reuters.

Around 310,000 ethnic Turks streamed across the border to Turkey from June to August to escape what they called a forced assimilation campaign, including a ban on Turkish names, the speaking of Turkish and Islamic observances.

Turkish officials said they wanted to secure property and other rights for Turks who left Bulgaria, regulate the flow of new refugees and protect the rights of those who stayed behind.

Stefan Stankov, head of the Balkan department in the Bulgarian Foreign Ministry, said issues would be discussed across the board.

He said Bulgaria was prepared to discuss "humanitarian issues — the reunification of divided families, for instance (and) to give more facilities for those who crossed the border and travelled to foreign countries."

"We have come with the intention to hold a serious and constructive dialogue," he told Reuters.

Fahd: Saudi-Kuwaiti ties strong despite executions

KUWAIT (R) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia was quoted Monday as saying ties with Kuwait will remain strong despite last month's executions of 16 Kuwaitis.

"Saudi-Kuwaiti relations will not be affected by those who by blowing up imaginary storms think they can harm the solid and historic ties," he told the Kuwaiti newspaper Al-Siyasah.

The Saudi monarch revealed for the first time that Kuwait's Emir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah had tried to get the sentences reduced.

But King Fahd said the charges were "enormous" because those convicted had harmed the holy places of Islam and killed innocent civilians.

Kuwait has remained silent since the Sept. 21 beheading of the 16 Kuwaitis, 10 of them of Iranian origin.

They had been found guilty of planting two bombs in Mecca. The explosions killed one Pakistani pilgrim and wounded 16 others during the annual Haj last July.

The Iranian news agency IRNA had claimed relatives of the Kuwaitis had condemned the

Kuwaiti government's silence on the deaths.

"It is the right of Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad to inquire (about the sentence), especially as the convicted held Kuwaiti nationality. The man is practising the rules of a wise political leadership," King Fahd said.

"If a Saudi threatened Kuwait's security, we will be the first to support any measure taken against him under Kuwaiti law," he said.

He added that Saudi Arabia did not want to be lenient in such cases because "it might encourage others... and we do not want to expose the security of the holy places and the country to any threat."

The Saudi monarch denied reports by human rights groups that the Kuwaitis were tortured during interrogation.

"When the accused were arrested the instructions were not to expose them to any type of pressure... we dealt with them in a civilised manner that safeguarded their right of defence."

"The innocent were acquitted and the guilty received their punishment," the paper quoted him as saying.

Afghan rebels in control of garrison

KABUL (AP) — U.S.-backed rebel forces have taken the home-town of Afghanistan's first Communist ruler, routing an army detachment of thousands, a government source and witnesses said Monday.

A rebel blockade of Kabul's four highways continued, forcing food prices higher and sparking fears of shortages should the action continue.

Rebel rocketing of Kabul's airport also intensified. Soldiers reported that at least six rockets hit the facility in the early morning.

A government source said officers fear that rebel groups have begun to unite in their fight against the Soviet-backed government.

Lack of unity has hurt the Mujahadeen rebels in their attempt to oust the Kabul government after the Soviet troops entered a decade of military intervention in February.

The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said rebel troops loyal to Ahmad Shah Massoud and Gulbuddin Hekmatyar had been coordinating the 10-day blockade on the Salang Highway north of Kabul. He said Massoud, a relatively liberal Muslim, had not previously united forces with the fundamentalist Hekmatyar.

Several Mujahadeen forces also reportedly fought together to capture Sore Kaili, the hometown of Noor Mohammad Taraki, the founder of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) and the nation's first Communist ruler.

Thousands of rebels attacked the city earlier this week in the Maqoor region of Ghazni province, according to the government source and two truck drivers who arrived from the region Monday.

By Friday, Mujahadeen forces had routed the 3,000-strong government garrison, they said. The truck drivers reported 10 rebels killed and 80 wounded and said government casualties were unknown.

"Those who weren't killed were put in jail in the garrison," one truck driver said.

Rebels captured a large quantity of government arms, including thousands of AK-47 automatic weapons, hand grenades and mortars, the government source



Kabul set up the garrison after he seized power in a coup in April 1978. Although he was ousted and killed in another coup in September 1979, the garrison remained one of the strongest in Ghazni province, the government source said.

Another truck driver said that after the Mujahadeen victory several members of the clergy were hung upside down from trucks for allegedly supporting the Soviet-backed government.

The government source said rebels have been trying to knock out the garrison for several years.

In Kabul, the price of flour jumped 40 per cent to 1,400 afghanis (three dollars and 50 cents) for a 7-kilogramme sack. Mutton, the main meat of the Afghans, increased 11 per cent to 850 afghanis (one dollar and 80 cents) per kilo.

Rebel forces have blocked the main supply road into Kabul, the Salang Highway. More than 2,000 trucks were said to be stuck on the highway north of the battles.

Private truckers entering the city from three other roads said they too had been closed to government traffic.

Government officials have estimated that if land and air routes are shut, the capital would be able to survive for about one month with its reserves of flour and gasoline.

To complete the attempted blockade, rebel forces have stepped up their bombardment of the international airport with missiles. Soldiers reported that six rockets hit the airport Monday morning and that air shipments from the Soviet Union were slowing down to about 10 a day from the usual 30.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran to put 'spies' for U.S. on show

NICOSIA (R) — Iran said Sunday it would present a group of spies for the United States to foreign reporters at the former American embassy in Tehran next week. The national news agency IRNA also said the jailed spies would be interviewed on television Nov. 4 to mark the 10th anniversary of the seizure of the embassy by militant students who held the staff hostage for 444 days. The Information Ministry urged Iranians to take part in a march to the embassy building in Tehran on the same day, said the agency, received in Nicosia.

Heavy penalties for traffic violations in Iraq

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — The government has announced heavy penalties for drivers who violate traffic rules on the new cross-country highway, following a spate of accidents. The 1.5 million-dinar (\$4.5 million) road links Iraq's western borders with Jordan and Syria, with Kuwait on its southeastern border. Iraqis who break the rules will be jailed for a yet-undetermined period and have their vehicles confiscated, according to a decree signed by President Saddam Hussein. Foreign workers resident in Iraq who violate rules, including ignoring traffic lights or driving with broken headlights or back lights, will not be granted reentry visas to return to the country. A consortium of foreign companies already has completed three quarters of the 1,200-kilometre highway. In July, state-owned companies began building the last section.

Three fishermen hurt in boat blast

ABU DHABI (R) — Three Indian fishermen were injured, one seriously when an explosion ripped through their boat off Fujairah in the Gulf of Oman, United Arab Emirates police said Monday. But a police spokesman ruled out the possibility that the boat had hit a mine from the Gulf war between Iran and Iraq. "I don't think the explosion was caused by a mine as the lower part (of the boat) is intact," Lieutenant Humaid Mohammed said. Police said the cause of the explosion Sunday aboard the six-metre fibreglass boat as it lay off Fujairah was being investigated. Mines planted during the Iran-Iraq war by both sides may drift into southern parts of the Gulf creating hazards for merchant and fishing vessels, shipping sources said.

Tehran sees better ties with Paris

NICOSIA (AP) — The English-language Tehran Times said Sunday relations between Iran and France were improving and argued this should not be affected by secondary issues such as the controversy over Islamic headscarves in French schools. The official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) quoted the newspaper as saying the improvement follows the recent talks in Tehran and Paris aimed at settling the issue of a \$1 billion loan owed to Iran by the French consortium Eurodif. "Resumption of friendly ties between Paris and Tehran should be seen as part of strategic foreign policy goals of the two countries, and as such it should not be left to the solution of issues of much less significance," the paper said in an editorial. One such issue, it said, was the controversy in France over whether Muslim girl students should be allowed to wear headscarves in class. Iranian news media have said any ban would be anti-Islamic.

Author grossman given award

TEL AVIV (AP) — David Grossman, a leading Israeli author, was given the Mt. Zion award Sunday for his contribution to peace in the Middle East and understanding between people of the region. The award of 10,000 Swiss francs is given each year to those promoting the Jewish-Arab dialogue by the Mt. Zion Association, a German-Swiss-Israeli organisation. "This is a sacred place for three religions: Christianity, Judaism and Islam, Grossman said. "I'm a very secular person, but the fact is that people coming from such different places found a meeting point in their desire for peace and understanding between people." "Maybe my words helped them, and mostly myself, to formulate our feelings," Grossman's books include the novel "See Under: Love" and "The Yellow Wind."

Hostages' plight a lesson in limits of American power

The spectacle of Americans held hostage overseas helped topple one U.S. administration, drove another into the Iran-contra scandal and continues to bedevil a U.S. government torn between a desire to free its captive citizens and reluctance to negotiate with "terrorists." Ten years after Iranian students overran the U.S. embassy in Tehran, the issue is no less painful, and the solutions no more clear.

By Joan Mower
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — For the nation that prides itself as one of the mightiest on earth, blurry television images of Americans held hostage in the Middle East have become a bitter lesson on the limits of power.

Few issues have so frustrated the American public and its leaders since radical Iranian students stormed the U.S. embassy in Tehran 10 years ago this week — on Nov. 4, 1979 — and took 53 Americans hos-

tage. President George Bush has toned down the rhetoric in an attempt to keep the public from focusing too closely on an issue that helped topple former President Jimmy Carter and led Ronald Reagan into the worst foreign policy scandal of the 1980s.

But at the same time, Bush is enlisting third parties in an effort to deal with Iran and free

the eight Americans now held by Iranian-backed groups in Lebanon.

Carter, hounded by questions about the Tehran hostages and the United States' inability to free them, withdrew inside the White House for much of his 1980 re-election campaign.

Those hostages eventually were freed after 444 days — on the day Reagan was inaugurated as Carter's successor, Jan. 20, 1981.

But nearly six years later, Reagan's presidency was rocked by the Iran-contra affair, revelations that his aides had sold weapons to Iran in hopes of freeing the hostages in Lebanon and diverted the proceeds to Nicaraguan rebels. The arms deals came when Reagan was proclaiming publicly that the United States would not negotiate for the hostages' release.

Washington has had no diplomatic relations with Iran since the revolutionary govern-

ment seized power there in early 1979.

'Messages'

Quietly, however, the United States has been using intermediaries — Japan, Pakistan, Algeria and Switzerland, to name a few — to send messages to Tehran, says Gary Sick, author of a book about Carter's hostage crisis and a National Security Council aide during the Democratic presidency.

The thrust of Bush's third-party messages is that the United States is ready for better ties, but the hostages must be freed first, analysts say. "Bush is conscious of Iran's power and he's shown an interest in putting things right," says Frederick Axelgard, a senior fellow at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies.

While Bush has tried to play down the hostage issue public-

ly, he was forced to react when a group calling itself the Organisation for the Oppressed on Earth reported on July 31 that it had killed marine William R. Higgins.

The president cut short a trip to the Midwest and returned to Washington to condemn the "brutal and tragic" events, but he did nothing to retaliate.

In Sick's view, Bush simply doesn't have many options. "After the Iran-contra episode, he can't afford to be tagged with a trade, a deal. In effect, it has tied his hands," he says.

Publicly, the administration's position on the hostages is the same as the Reagan administration's was after the Iran-contra scandal. Secretary of State James Baker reiterated that policy last week.

"The Iranian government has known for a long time that we are quite prepared to have open discussions with representatives

of that government, provided they renounce their pursuit of terrorism and provided they take actions to seek the release and freedom of our American hostages," he said.

Stalemate

Iran's president, Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, said last week that he would help free the American hostages if the United States would release billions of dollars of assets frozen 10 years ago after the Tehran embassy takeover.

The United States rejects linking the assets, valued at between \$9 billion and \$12 billion, to the hostages.

U.S. officials say those disputes are, slowly but surely, being dealt with by the Iran-U.S. claims tribunal in the Hague, Netherlands. As of August, U.S. nationals had been awarded about \$1.2 billion by

the tribunal; Iranians had received \$118 million, the State Department said.

Despite the stalemate, analysts say a number of factors could, in the long run, help Bush resolve the hostage issue.

Among them: the death this year of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the headline spiritual father of the Iranian revolution, the end of the Iran-Iraq war and the peace plan in Lebanon.

"If the Lebanese accord works, if Rafsanjani is able to continue to consolidate his political base, then we are getting to an atmosphere in which it may be possible for something to take place," says Judith Kipper, a Middle East expert at the Brookings Institution.

Kipper says Rafsanjani's need to rebuild his country and obtain technology and economic assistance could lead him to help secure the hostages' release.

In addition, the August 1988 ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war has reduced the perceived threat in the Gulf and allowed the United States to cut back its military force there. The Iranians probably view that as a positive sign, Sick says.

Barry Wiley of the U.S. central command says 10 U.S. ships remain in the Gulf, down from about 17 a year ago.

Complicating the hostage picture, however, is the relationship between Iran and the Lebanese kidnappers, thought to be factions of the pro-Iranian Hizbollah umbrella group.

Axelgard says there are some signs that Iran has distanced itself from Hizbollah.

But Shaul Bakhash, a professor at George Mason University, disputes that view. Recent visits to Iran by Sheikh Mohammad Fadlallah, spiritual leader of Hizbollah, do not suggest a lessening of contact between the two, he says.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE
15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programmes
17:05 Sea Hunt
18:00 News summary in Arabic
18:05 Local programme
19:15 Agricultural programme
19:45 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Programme review
21:40 Local programme
22:00 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 Documentary
19:15 News in French
19:15 Anjoud Thal El Jordania
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Different world
21:00 Super Sense
21:30 Baby Boom
22:00 News in English
22:30 Flashes

PRAYER TIMES

05:47 Fajr
07:47 (Sunrise) Duha
11:19 Dhuhr
14:24 'Asr
16:52 Maghrib
18:19 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Swedish Tel. 510740.
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785, 683226.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.
Teremans Church Tel. 622366.
Church of the Annunciation, Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 623083, Tel. 771231.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 773551.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Assiout International Church Tel. 683226.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 659332.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will be relatively cold and partly cloudy to cloudy at times with expected scattered showers and winds will be northwesterly moderate to fresh. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy with northerly moderate wind and calm sea.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMBULANCE: 774024
Dr. Zaid Zaidoun 638291
Dr. Sami Khouri 681373
Dr. Nabil Al-Mutash 628252
Fire department 661912
Petroleum pharmacy 773354
Al Asema pharmacy 637035
Neiroch pharmacy 623672
Al Salem pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shameisani pharmacy 637660

EMERGENCIES
Dr. Mahmoud Saeed (—)
Al Shamsi pharmacy (983238)

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 845402
Traffic Police 896990
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Police Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Ambulance 774024
Dr. Zaid Zaidoun 638291
Dr. Sami Khouri 681373
Dr. Nabil Al-Mutash 628252
Fire department 661912
Petroleum pharmacy 773354
Al Asema pharmacy 637035
Neiroch pharmacy 623672
Al Salem pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shameisani pharmacy 637660

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khaldit Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/6
Akhdh Maternity, J. Amn. 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Madhah, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsi 641714
Shamsi Hospital 697131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Mustashir Hospital 6672219
The Islamic, Amman 666127/7
Al-Ahli, Amman 664164
Eastern, Al-Muhajirah 771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775112/6
Army, Madra 891611/5
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071
Be Sina Hospital (09)985732
BRIDJ:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)273555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272215
Ras Al-Nafes Hospital (02)267190
AQABA:
Company 636841
RU Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53300

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)33200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:45 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
07:00 Damascus (RJ)
07:10 Jeddah (RJ)
07:20 Cairo (RJ)
07:35 Madra, Dubai (RJ)
07:45 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
07:50 Abu Dhabi, Kuwait (RJ)
08:00 Montreal, New York (RJ)
08:05 Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)
08:10 Tripoli (RJ)
08:20 Geneva, Bergamo (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

10:05 Cairo (MS)
10:20 Kuwait (KU)
10:35 Moscow, Leningrad (SU)
10:50 Dubai, Damascus (EK)
17:05 Rome (AZ)
19:25 Beirut (ME)
06:35 Zurich, Larnaca (3R)
06:55 London (BA)
DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
07:00 Amman (RJ)
07:10 Tripoli (RJ)
07:20 Cairo (RJ)
07:35 Madra, Dubai (RJ)
07:45 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
07:50 Abu Dhabi, Kuwait (RJ)
08:00 Montreal, New York (RJ)
08:05 Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)
08:10 Tripoli (RJ)
08:20 Geneva, Bergamo (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

10:05 Cairo (MS)
10:20 Kuwait (KU)
10:35 Moscow, Moscow (SU)
10:50 Dubai, Damascus (EK)
17:05 Rome (AZ)
19:25 Beirut (ME)
06:35 Zurich, Larnaca (3R)
06:55 London (BA)

MARKET PRICES

Uppermarket prices in fils per kg.
Apple 420 / 380
Banana 450 / 400
Banana (Makassar) 400 / 350
Cabbage 240 / 200
Carrot 250 / 20

Squatters — an election issue in Zarqa race

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Over 75,000 squatters in Zarqa Governorate are pinning hopes to their future representatives to the Lower House of Parliament to find a solution for their status after years of debating it with the government.

According to residents of the governorate and some candidates in the Nov. 8 elections, squatters are demanding that the government facilitate their low-cost ownership of the land on which they have built their homes. A squatter is defined by the dictionary as some one who settles on public land under government regulations with the purpose of acquiring title.

In the Zarqa case, the government, according to the citizens, has already made the squatters an offer which would allow them to gain ownership of the land by paying JD 10 per square metre. The squatters have refused the offer. "Because the price is too expensive," a squatter told the Jordan Times.

Radwan Ayed Al Khalileh, a Zarqa Governorate candidate, lives in one of the areas owned by the government — "amerieh" land in Arabic — in

what is considered to be suburbs of the city of Zarqa but is in fact a poorer extension of it.

He maintained that he built his present home on amerieh land which was occupied by his father and his grandfather before him and therefore it should now become his. "This problem has to be solved, the land should be given to its present occupiers and at a much lower cost," Khalileh said.

The amerieh land, according to Khalileh, covers the suburbs of the cities of Zarqa and Ruseifah and "houses at least 75,000 citizens, if not much more."

Nadia Bushnaq, the only woman candidate in the governorate, also discussed this problem as one of the main demands of the predominantly tribal squatters. "They took this empty land and built their homes on it and now it should become theirs," she said. The problem, which touches over a third of the citizens of second most-populated city of Jordan, has created a situation with drastic effects on the basic services in the city.

"The whole governorate suffers from the lack of adequate services such as transportation, roads, water, electricity and health services," Khalileh said.

The citizens of the city were hesitant to comment on the state of basic services in Zarqa, but they were encouraged by the candidates' comments and recounted stories of their personal experiences as a result of this situation.

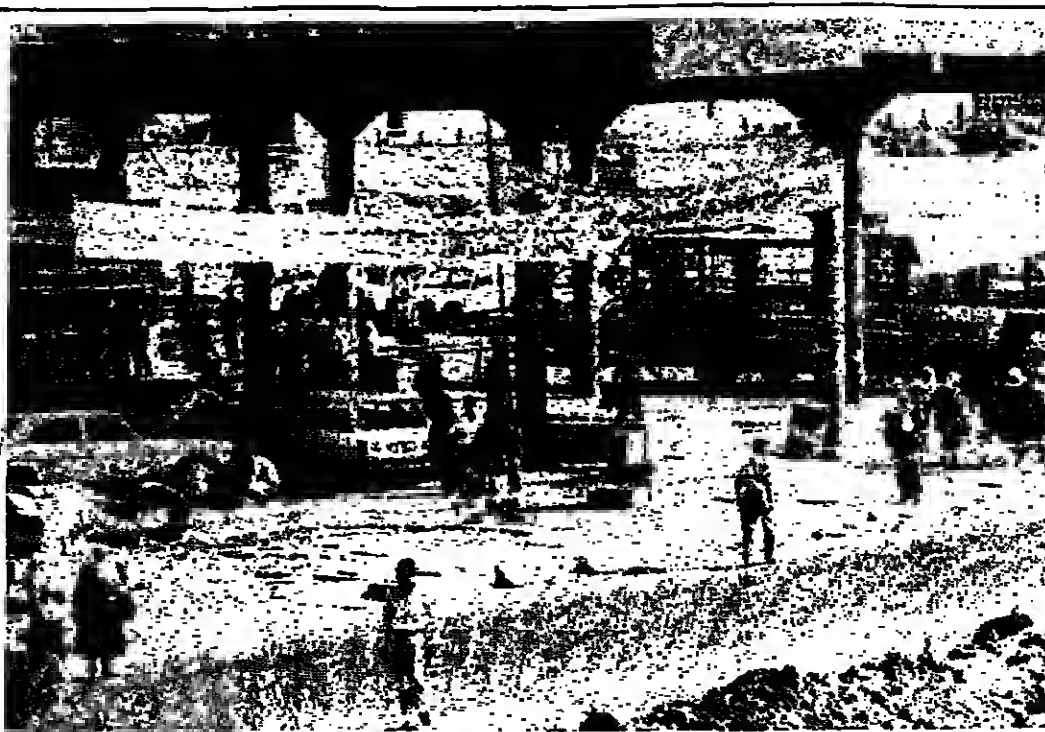
"Write that a boy of five walks four kilometres every morning to reach his school, that there is no transportation and the school is very far from where we live," said an anguished father.

"Days pass without water or electricity supply," said a young bedouin housewife.

Bushnaq said that her candidacy came about because she felt she wanted to contribute more to the development and services reform in Zarqa. "The city of Zarqa needs a lot of services," Bushnaq said.

"This city holds the largest number of low-income families and they are the people who need development most," said Bushnaq, the president of the Women's Federation in Zarqa. Government health services in particular were cited by citizens and candidates as the most pressing need of the governorate.

"The city of Zarqa has a population of 150,000 who were serviced by only one government hospital. Obviously this is not enough," Khalil Abu



Banners and slogans cover Zarqa streets (Photo by Yusef Al 'Alam)

Hussein, also a candidate, said.

Abu Hussein, a general practitioner, told the Jordan Times that the hospital cannot allocate adequate time to treating minor cases when there are emergency ones. "If the doctor was treating a child with diarrhoea and a car accident victim came into the hospital they would leave the child to treat the emergency," Abu Hussein said.

Bushnaq maintained that some people "have had to sell their houses to pay private

hospital and medication bills. This is a tragedy, especially for families who have many children and are very poor."

Environmental pollution caused by factories in the area was cited by some citizens and candidates as the cause of "increasing number of ailments which have hit the citizens and need continuous treatment."

Other problems in the governorate are the plight of farmers and the increasing cost of farming materials and seeds as well as the fluctuating prices of vegetables and fruits.

"We are originally farmers," Bushnaq said. "The land pulls us to it and it is to the country's benefit to encourage farming and to minimise its cost for the poor peasants who are willing to work with their hands."

"We want an agricultural credit bank, but loans should be provided free of interest," one of the farmers in the area said.

Others asked for low-cost vegetable canning factories "to stabilise the prices of vegetables and to allow the farmer to preserve vegetables when there is an abundance."

Crown Prince briefs Tomkys

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday reviewed Middle East development with Roger Tomkys, British deputy under-secretary of state for Middle East and African Affairs. Prince Hassan briefed Tomkys on developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict and the dangers inherent in any increased migration of Jews from the Soviet Union to Israel. He pointed out the ramifications of such a migration on the people of occupied Palestine and their limited and meagre natural resources which are being controlled by Israel in its drive to bolster its hold over Arab territory.

Prince Hassan also discussed economic issues at the meeting. He explained Jordan's increasing burden resulting from shortage of water and energy resources. Jordan's needs of these materials are expected to double by the end of this century and there is a pressing need for huge projects to ensure sufficient amounts of water and energy to maintain the process of development, according to the Prince.

Tomkys was also scheduled to meet with Finance Minister Basel Jaradat before leaving Jordan Tuesday at the end of his three-day visit to the country.

Antiquities exhibition on display in Tokyo

AMMAN (J.T.) — Four hundred of Jordan's finest antiquities spanning the last 9,000 years of history are now on display in Tokyo in a bid to introduce Jordan's historic role as a centre of civilisation from the archaeological, cultural, touristic and spiritual aspects.

The exhibition, which was organised in cooperation with the Japanese government, was inaugurated by Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein last Thursday at a ceremony in which she expressed hope of increased Jordanian-Japanese cultural contacts that would reflect the ties between the Arab world and the Far East.

In remarks she made at the ceremony for the opening of the exhibition entitled "The King Road — Art and Culture of Jordan 9,000 Years," the Queen said that despite great differences in size, resources and international positions, Jordan and Japan through history have been able "to draw upon their rich human assets to generate material and cultural wealth — and consequently to contribute constructively to other societies and economies throughout the world."

She also said that the enduring and constructive nature of Japanese, Jordanian and Palestinian societies reflected "a crucial sense of identity and respect for ancient social responsibility to the greater family, community, clan or tribal unit to which he or she belongs."

The exhibition will be on display for three weeks, during which it is expected to attract over 730,000 visitors, according to senior executives of the Tikkashimaya Department Store, whose art gallery is one of Tokyo's busiest cultural centres. Over 3,500 people visited the exhibition during the first day.

The exhibition, which includes 400 of Jordan's finest antiquities spanning the last 9,000 years of history, and Jordanian and Palestinian embroidered dresses and jewelry from the collection of Widad Kassar, will also go on display in three other Japanese cities this winter — Nagoya, Kyoto and Osaka. It has already been shown in West Germany, France and Austria, and is expected to go on to Singapore, the U.K. and North America.

Panel to coordinate testing of foodstuffs

AMMAN (J.T.) — A committee has been formed comprising various concerned departments to supervise studies and laboratory tests conducted on foodstuffs, water and soil in Jordan. Minister of Health and Social Development, Zuhair Malhas announced Monday. The committee will pool the efforts of various departments concerned with such studies and prevent duplication of work and reduce waste and expenses, the minister said.

He made the announcement at a meeting of representatives of

the concerned departments which need to test samples at their respective laboratories. He said the committee would present a report on the laboratories' work and coordinate their operations.

According to Malhas, the committee was set up upon directives of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, who urged the Ministry of Health to speed up work on a special unit affiliated to the ministry to take charge of matters pertaining to public health safety in the Kingdom.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

ARAB NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS MEETING: Her Royal Highness Princess Basma arrived in Cairo Monday to take part in meetings of Arab national institutions conference due to start Tuesday. The three-day conference is scheduled to discuss means of coordination and cooperation among Arab national institutions. Princess Basma, who is heading Jordan's delegation, is the chairperson of the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF). (Petra)

RED CROSS HELP: Dr. Ahmad Abu Qoura, president of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS), said here that he had discussed cooperation between the society and the West German Red Cross. Agreement was reached at the talks held in Geneva during annual meetings of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The German society would provide the JNRCS with X-ray equipment and an ambulance as well as a shipment of medicine. (Petra)

NEW AMBASSADOR TO QATAR: Jordan's new ambassador to Qatar, Nayef Al Qadi, presented his credentials in Doha to Qatar's ruler Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani and conveyed greetings from His Majesty King Hussein. Sheikh Khalifa voiced his country's appreciation of the King's constant efforts on the regional and international levels. The ambassador was requested to carry greetings to the King from the Qatari ruler who also lauded Jordanian-Qatari cooperation in all fields. (Petra)

AMMAN-ROME COOPERATION: Amman Mayor Ali Subeihat Monday received Italian Ambassador to Jordan Francesco de Curten and discussed with him means of promoting and bolstering cooperation between Amman and Rome in the fields of culture and municipal services. The prospect of signing a friendship agreement between the two capitals was among the issues discussed in the meeting. The Italian ambassador was received also by University of Jordan President Mahmoud Al Samra, who briefed him on the university's development and its activities. Ways of promoting cooperation between the University of Jordan and Italian universities were discussed in the meeting. (Petra)

IRAQI TEAM ON NARCOTICS: A team from the Iraqi department in charge of combating narcotics met here Monday with Public Security Department (PSD) Director Major-General Fadel Ali Fheid to discuss scopes of cooperation for fighting the narcotics problem within the four-member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries. The team, led by Major General Sayed Ghath, also met with senior PSD officers to discuss issues of common concern specially those related to drugs, counterfeiting, and other criminal activities. They also touched on security measures against smugglers. The team is visiting Jordan as part of an ACC agreement on cooperation among Egypt, Jordan, Iraq and North Yemen in security affairs, particularly in drug trafficking in the Arab region. (Petra)

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * An art exhibition by Foad Mimi and 'Ammar Khammash at Abdul Hamid Shomou Foundation's Scientific and Cultural Centre.
- * An art exhibition by Jordanian artist Mohammad Al Qaddoumi displaying oil and watercolour paintings depicting nature in Jordan, at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- * Jordanian amateur artists exhibition at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- * An exhibition entitled "Scholars and Revolution" at the French Cultural Centre.
- * Islamic calligraphy exhibition at Jordan National Gallery.
- * An exhibition entitled "Romeana Today" which includes photos and books depicting life and culture in Romeana at Yarmouk University.

FESTIVAL

- * Military sports festival which includes shows of martial arts at Amman International Stadium, Al Hussein Sports City — 3:00 p.m.

LECTURE

- * A lecture entitled "Stratigraphic Evidence for the Plate Tectonics from the Mediterranean to the Arabian Gulf" by Dr. Helmi Koser at the Goethe Institute — 7:00 p.m.

PIANO RECITAL

- * Piano recital by Francois Kerdouff at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

FILM

- * A film on Bruce Springsteen at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.

Diversions on road to Jerash

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Public Security Department (PSD) Monday announced traffic diversions along the Jerash-Amman road to allow for expansion. A statement said vehicles travelling between the Baqa'a refugee camp and Jerash will follow the Umm Al Rammam road which bypasses the main highway where teams from the Ministry of Public Works are carrying out expansion work. The PSD appealed to motorists to take extra care while travelling along the diversion route, designated with traffic signs. The Baqa'a-Jerash stretch is part of a 59-kilometre road stretching between Amman and Irbid.

The other two parts, one stretching between Irbid and a point just north of Jerash, is due to be completed early next year at the cost of JD 6.75 million, and the other, stretching from the north of Jerash to the Zarqa River, is scheduled to be completed in two years at the total cost of JD 12.2 million.

Amman-Naour-Dead Sea Road

Dr. Hisham Al Khatib, minister of energy and mineral resources and acting minister of public works and housing, last week inaugurated a new section of the Amman-Naour-Dead Sea road. The section, the second of the project is six kilometres long with a divided four-lane highway with grade separated interchanges. It begins in Marj Al Hamam, bypasses Naour, and ends close to Dar Al Daw'a factories. The project was constructed by a joint venture between two Jordanian companies at a total cost of JD 3.5 million.

The Amman-Naour-Dead Sea road is expected to ease the increasing traffic flow between Amman and the Jordan Valley and it links with the Zarqa-Ghor Hadutha road, connecting the Jordan Valley with Agaba, thus facilitating the transport of agricultural products from the Jordan Valley to Amman and other parts of the country.

The project is partially financed by a grant from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) which will cover 60 per cent of the total cost.

36 killed on roads in September

AMMAN (Petra) — Road accidents in the Kingdom during the past month caused 36 deaths and the injury of 720 others, according to the Public Security Department (PSD).

The PSD said nearly 58.2 per cent of the 1,422 road accidents involved collisions between vehicles and 9.7 per cent involved running down people on the roads.

According to the statement, accidents registered a decline last month compared with the same month of last year, but added that the number of deaths resulting from last month's accidents rose by 20 per cent over the same period in 1988.

Seminar reviews modern trends in photo-chemistry

IRBID (J.T.) — A four-day seminar on modern trends in photo-chemistry under way at Yarmouk University Monday reviewed working papers by Italian, Bahraini, and West German experts.

Upon opening the seminar Sunday, university President Mohammad Hamdan outlined the university's scientific research programmes, which, he said, give

momentum to development in Jordan.

Photo chemistry, he said, has great effects on the development of photography, the exploitation of solar energy, the use of laser beams in medicine and other fields.

Dr. Tala Al Akashe, chairman of a committee that prepared for the seminar, said that photo chemistry was instrumental in the discovery of the laser technique,

which contributed to the development of various research programmes and projects.

It is hoped that after the establishment of the laser centre at the University of Jordan, Yarmouk University's photo chemistry centre and laboratory will launch cooperation with the University of Jordan in research programmes that would contribute to scientific advances in the Kingdom, Akashe said.

CSC plans three-year overhaul programme

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Civil Service Commission (CSC), in cooperation with the Institute of Public Administration (IPA), and with financing from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), will next year embark on a three-year plan for overhauling the civil service in the Kingdom, according to (IPA) Director Abdullah Ulayyan.

Ulayyan said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that UNDP would extend \$750,000 to help Jordan implement the \$1.5 million plan, which

is designed to help the country carry out its socio-economic projects while maintaining the ongoing economic readjustment plan.

The plan, Ulayyan said, entails the employment of 20 international and 20 local experts in public administration who will deliver lectures and conduct training for different categories of civil servants.

The plan, he said, also entails sending employees on scholarships abroad to acquire further expertise and training.



Abdullah Ulayyan



ANNOUNCEMENT



CONTSHIP CONTAINERLINES LTD. & PETRA NAVIGATION CO. LTD.

For mutual interest of both above parties, it has been agreed to dissolve the agreement between the two companies as from October 21, 1989. Contship Containerline Ltd. would like to thank Messrs. Petra Navigation Co. for all their past efforts and support which have made a significant contribution to the present success of the line in Jordan.

Petra Navigation extends its best wishes to Contship Containerline Ltd. in their future activities.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

Editorial Director:
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DR. RADI AL WAQFI
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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times Advertising Department.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily Monday discussed parliament elections in Jordan and the current campaign conducted by various candidates to win seats in the Lower House. It also cited directives by His Majesty King Hussein to the government of Zaid Ben Shaker to provide all facilities to ensure free and democratic elections and to enable Jordanian citizens to fulfill their national duty. The paper said that in view of the country's responsibilities and for the sake of surmounting all challenges, the voters and the candidates ought to exercise their rights, taking into consideration the higher national interest. One has to realise, said the paper, that the deputies who will sit in parliament in the coming stage will be responsible for controlling government actions and programmes, and helping the public attain its aspiration. Therefore, it said, the voters have a serious responsibility towards the coming stage. The paper said that the country needs very competent parliament members who can confront and deal with the numerous problems facing the Kingdom and remain committed to serve their people.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Monday launches a strong attack on the Israeli-South African collaboration to produce nuclear weapons and missiles at a time when the world is showing increasing tendency to end all forms of conflict and to end the arms race. Mahmoud Rimawi says that it is not strange for the two regimes in Israel and South Africa to follow this aggressive course since both of them had been giving very little regard to human values but were showing constant contempt and disrespect of all international principles. The writer says both regimes are dedicating their efforts to maintain racist rule, imposing repression on people under their rule; and only concerned with matters designed to corroborate their hold over power and the destiny of the oppressed people. The writer also criticises Washington for condoning collaboration between the two regimes. He says that the United States seems to be concerned over the latest development only to divert the world public attention from the basic and central issue: that of Palestine. What is happening now, says the writer, is not only a defiance of the will of the international community but also a way to thwart all efforts to force Israel to succumb to the community's call of ending its occupation of Palestine and implementing U.N. Security Council resolutions.

Al Dustour daily newspaper said Monday that King Hussein's directives to the government to provide all means that would help ensure a smooth and successful election on Nov. 8, came at the most proper moment. The directives, the paper said, came as the election day draws near and as the streets of Jordanian cities and villages abound with slogans and candidates' programmes displayed on posters and banners or brochures and pamphlets seeking voters support. The paper noted with satisfaction the King's directives to the government to provide such facilities. The directives were another indication of the monarch's full confidence in the people to choose what is best for them and their future generations, the paper noted. It said that King Hussein is keen on enhancing national unity in Jordan and rallying people's support through democratic and parliamentary rule, towards upholding the main aspirations and working towards their achievement.

Third World: The big powers are losing interest

By Jim Hoagland

FRANKFURT — The United States and the Soviet Union are cutting their risks in the regional wars of Africa, Asia and Central America. But the wars continue, as the superpowers willingly preside over the creation of a series of non-states where no one rules. The wars of Afghanistan, Cambodia and Angola appeared in the past year to be nearing an end, but the reasons to continue fighting still outweigh those to stop. Despite this, the superpowers have made it clear to each other that these Third World conflicts should not trigger new Soviet-U.S. confrontations. That is a significant accomplishment. High-risk, low-gain Soviet-U.S. competition in the Third World has had damaging effects on previous efforts to end the cold war. Detente, Henry Kissinger has said, perished in Angola. Zbigniew Brzezinski believes that SALT-2 was buried in the sands of the Ogaden desert during the Ethiopian-Somali border war in 1978.

In both its Evil Empire and New Era phases, the Reagan administration promoted low-intensity conflicts in the Third World to bleed the Soviets. This helped push the Soviets to withdraw from Afghanistan and to reduce their commitments to the wars in Angola and Cambodia. When the Bush administration came to office nine months ago, the regional-conflict account looked like a promising one for the new team. But, like the pudding that Winston Churchill scorned, the Bush administration's handling of regional conflict lacks theme. There is a tendency toward U.S. disengagement, but the trend line is a

jagged one of detours and reverses at roadblocks erected by Congress or foreign governments.

In Nicaragua, President Bush sought to make a virtue out of necessity. He quickly chose peace with Congress over war with the Sandinistas. Cutting the contra losses before they went on his tab, he coupled a clearly defined goal to the means at hand in Nicaragua.

Elsewhere such clarity has not been apparent. In Afghanistan, military victory by the resistance forces seemed so close and sure after the Soviet withdrawal that the United States made no effort to forge a political strategy. The U.S. embassy was precipitously closed, cutting off a valuable source of political intelligence at a crucial moment. For his part, Mikhail Gorbachev refuses to abandon Major General Najib, the used-up dictator in Kabul, without a fig leaf.

Washington and Moscow continue to supply their friends and clients with the wherewithal to shoot up the jungles and mountain valleys they contest, but the hearts of the superpowers are no longer in it. Without their own direct conflict to keep passion alive, Washington and Moscow are going through the motions. The Gorbachev team makes it clear that they wish the Soviet Union had never heard of the Third World.

Both superpowers were passive outsiders at the Cambodia peace conference in Paris in August. The willingness of Secretary of State James Baker to allow his name to be used on a plan for Cambodia that would result in the Khmer Rouge having a share

of power is a sign both of the failure of U.S. policy and of Mr. Baker's willingness to placate China and Singapore.

Another sign of the new halfheartedness came when stories which had been leaked in Washington this month about Soviet misdeeds in Afghanistan, Nicaragua and Cambodia produced more splutter than spark. The Bush administration had to retreat publicly from background assertions that arms deliveries from the East Bloc to Nicaragua had significantly increased.

Renewed fighting in Angola has not so far disrupted the regional accord calling for withdrawal of Cuban troops there. The Reagan administration demonstrated single-minded attention to the strategic goal of getting the Cubans out when it brokered the accord. The Bush administration seems more concerned with placating congressional supporters of Jonas Savimbi.

Some European analysts see a conscious pattern in all this. The mutual scaling back of involvement in Third World conflicts, the unilateral U.S. decision on Nicaragua and the Soviet withdrawal of direct control in Central Europe add up to a pattern of disengagement, leaving each superpower free to pursue more pressing wars at home. Mr. Bush battles the devastating effects of cocaine; Mr. Gorbachev struggles against the destructive effects on mind and body of seven decades of totalitarianism.

But reality is messier than theory. No grand design of disengagement seems to exist. Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger probably came closer to the mark in a candid speech last month when he described the two superpowers reaching the finish line of the arms race "out of breath."

How can they break out of their passive egging on of regional conflicts? Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German foreign minister, had a suggestion in a recent speech in Frankfurt: The arms control accord that the Warsaw Pact and NATO are likely to reach next year should prohibit either side from reducing its arsenal by selling weapons systems at discount rates to Third World states.

The superpowers may now be too wise or too tired to bloody each other through proxies. It would be a shame if they were too tired, or too unimaginative, to take decisive joint action to stop regional wars that they helped underwrite in the past — The Washington Post.

American conservatives blink left

By Robert Kuttner

WASHINGTON — The fall issue of the Heritage Foundation's magazine, Policy Review, contains a surprising article by its editor, Adam Meyerson, entitled "Adam Smith's Welfare State." Heritage has been among the most hard-line of the Reagan-era conservative think tanks. But Mr. Meyerson's point is that even Adam Smith, the patron saint of free market conservatives, did not believe in absolute laissez-faire, and neither should his modern followers.

"The popular embrace of free markets," Mr. Meyerson writes, "should not be confused with a general dislike of government. Voters throughout the world continue to support a large government role in health, education and social insurance, generous aid to the needy and strong safety and environmental regulation."

Well, well. Like George Bush's gentler conservatism, which embraces an array of social programmes (although without explaining how to pay for them), Heritage seems to be a leading indicator of a shift in the public mood. If the think tank which for eight years criticised Ronald Reagan for being too liberal is now embracing affirmative government, there is definitely change in the wind.

As Mr. Meyerson explains, Adam Smith was opposed to laws that restricted economic liberty — primogeniture laws restricting land transfer, state grants of monopoly power for merchants, and import or export barriers. But Smith's 1776 classic, "The Wealth of Nations," made the case for such government programmes as "universal public education, public health measures against contagious diseases, safety regulations such as the obligation to construct fire walls, and labour regulations protecting workmen against fraudulent payment by employers."

Mr. Meyerson, who calls himself a "bleeding heart conservative," adds that "Smith saw no contradiction between his opposition to economic regulation and his support for safety regulation, as well as programmes providing for the less fortunate." Smith also supported substantial investment in public works.

Heritage has also come out for its own brand of universal health insurance. Its blueprint would compel people to purchase catastrophic sickness insurance, lest they become burdens on society. The poor would still receive Medicaid-like public assistance. Edmund Haismaier, a co-author of the Heritage study on

health care, says: "Contrary to the popular conception, a lot of people in the conservative movement are not absolute libertarians. Some of us are old-fashioned paleo-conservatives. Our concern is with the structure of society and how the individual fits into it. We don't believe people should be left to die in the street."

Possibly — just possibly — we have the beginning here of an ideological detente. If we can take Messrs. Meyerson and Haismaier at their word, this all suggests something more than a mere tactical accommodation to changing opinion polls. It suggests a well founded conservative concern about the stability of society.

It is becoming painfully clear that a decade of benign neglect has left American working families without homes, the mentally ill without shelter, schools that don't teach, and highways and bridges that collapse.

Public opinion is belatedly grasping that there may be some connection between the neglect of social investment and what The New Republic recently called the "dystopia" conditions of great cities. The proliferation of beggars, the ubiquity of drugs, the vulnerability of the middle and upper classes to random violence and oppression, all suggest that when social decay festers, society's haves can run but they can't hide.

In considering how to wage war on drugs, for example, one soon grasps the need to move beyond law enforcement to the deeper question of where all the drug abusers are coming from. People with a reasonable prospect of a fulfilling life seldom turn to the oblivion of drugs. Ultimately, safety as citizens in a democracy depends not on the grim security of a police state but on the self-control of most citizens.

Perhaps America is at last passing beyond the era when Reagan Republicans could sneer, with categorical certitude, that the common endeavour of government was never the solution, only the problem; and when Margaret Thatcher could dismiss traditional Tories who worried about the social fabric as "wets."

It is nice to see conservatives again thinking to conserve. And we may find that this emerging era of ideological detente is global. After all, if Mikhail Gorbachev can find usefulness in free markets, it's only fair that the Heritage Foundation find something constructive in government.

Now, gentlemen: How shall we pay for it? — Washington Post Writers Group.



Reports of Israeli brutality don't exaggerate

By Hal Wyner

TEL AVIV — In November 1987, I was in a bookstore in Tel Aviv and saw a poster put out in the early '80s by an Israeli protest group. It showed a photograph of an Israeli soldier beating a Palestinian, and said in Hebrew, "Don't say you didn't know."

I had been living in Israel for about a year and had heard stories about horrible things on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip. But I tended to assume that these were complete fabrications or, at the very least, gross exaggerations. Seeing the poster, I began to wonder if I was wrong.

One month later the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories broke out. Obviously I had to go and see what was happening. It was clear from the outset that the Israeli army was using unnecessary force to put down mass demonstrations. More than that, the troops deliberately provoked demonstrations in order to apply that force.

In February 1988 I visited the family of a 17-year-old boy who had been clubbed to death on the street by soldiers. Photographs of the corpse made doubt impossible. Since that time I have seen a great deal more. Not a day goes by in Gaza or on the West Bank without new cases of wanton brutality.

For journalists who witness such events in the territories, there is little question about the facts; the problem is how to report them. Those members of the foreign press corps who are patently anti-Semitic have a field day, of course. But for the serious correspondents the situation is more complicated.

It is clear that, as far as Israel's image in the world is concerned, any objective description of what is going on will be extremely damaging. And it is not surprising that the Jews of the world react strongly to the reports. Because of this, even the most uncompromising journalists generally make an effort to tone down their articles.

As difficult as it may be to believe, most stories on the intifada that appear in the Western media are characterised not by exaggeration but by understatement. In spite of this, many non-Jewish correspondents have had to deal with accusations of anti-Semitism, while Jewish journalists (myself included) are censured for "self-hatred."

I have noticed that the facts that I report, and the weight I attach to them are never seriously challenged. The most common complaint, often put in far less polite terms by readers, has been: "You don't know what harm you are doing. You are providing the

anti-Semites with ammunition." We all know that people who nurse a hatred of Jews do so, generally, on the basis of long-standing prejudices and not because of anything the Jews themselves do or do not do. Since anti-Semitism has its roots in the truth but in distortions of the truth, I do not see how I can in any way do a service to the Jewish people by concealing or distorting the truth when it comes to Israel. I am not prepared to sacrifice my own values as a concession to anti-Semites. The issue is not self-hatred but self-respect.

As for the facts, while there is no doubt that most Israeli soldiers are behaving with restraint under very trying circumstances, there are enough who are violating, with nearly complete impunity, all accepted norms of civilised military behaviour and are creating an appalling human rights situation in the territories. On a regular basis, people are being shot in cold blood, randomly killed and maimed, detained without trial and beaten and humiliated by soldiers acting on orders.

As a correspondent, Jewish or not, it seems to me one has little choice but to report this situation as one sees it. That these kinds of things, and worse, have been and are still being done elsewhere in the world is hardly a justification for ignoring them here.

For me personally, as a Jew, all this is distressing enough. But what is even more disturbing is that the Israeli government, while doing almost nothing to correct this state of affairs, purports to be acting in the name of the Jewish people.

How diaspora Jews choose to come to terms with this is a matter for each to decide on his or her own. But they do have to decide; in their decisions, there is no place for claims of ignorance — The New York Times.

LETTERS

The question is...

I AM a Muslim. I came to Jordan from Turkey through marriage. My deceased father used to pray five times a day; my mother who was also a Muslim, did not. There was a complete harmony at home, as far as religion was concerned.

I do not know Toujan Faisal, and Toujan Faisal does not know me, but I simply admire that courageous, committed woman. Everyone, including the people who accuse her of not being a Muslim, knows that the question here is not religion.

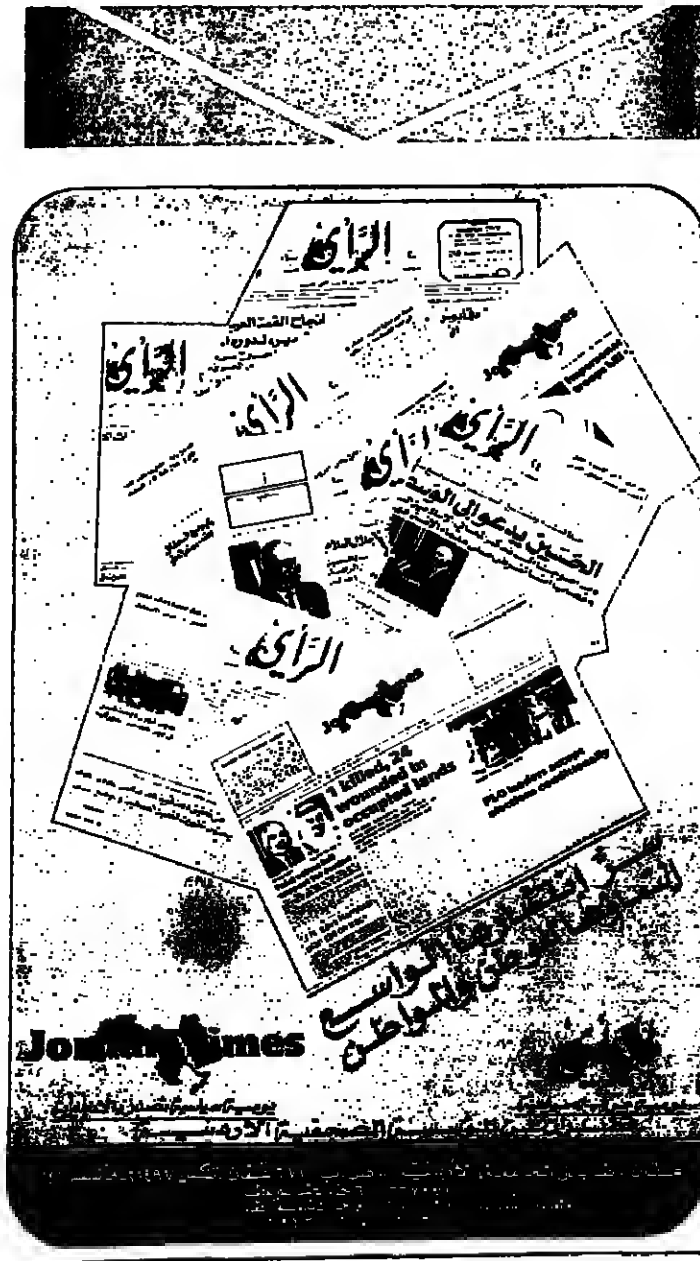
The question is that, some semi-educated men are feeling threatened by the women of Jordan who are becoming aware of their rights. Many such men look at Toujan Faisal as one who is promoting this awareness. They hope that by suppressing her, they can suppress the rest of the women.

The women of Jordan will not be suppressed; and they should not be suppressed. The men should be proud of their wives, sisters, daughters and encourage them to do their duty towards their community. And many wise men do.

The women of Jordan have gone a long way; and they have still a long way to go; as many of the men themselves have a long way to go. The proof of their not having reached this ideal level of tolerance, which our religion teaches us, is in their unfair accusation of Toujan Faisal.

We need Toujan Faisal. We need more like her. Not only for women — but for our country.

Janet Shami



The Holy See and the Middle East

Address by Archbishop Renato R. Martino, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations at the Middle East Colloquium, Fordham University 1989

THE HOLY SEE finds itself in a unique position in the community of nations. In a nuclear age, it is without nuclear weapons or conventional forces, except for a few hundred public security guards in Vatican City. Its gross national product is negligible, its financial holdings minimal and its debt enormous.

Yet the Holy See is a force of considerable stature in the international community. As you know, the Holy See is more than simply the independent State of Vatican City which measures just 0.44 square kilometres. The Holy See is the juridical personification of the unique ministry of the Pope, a status which history has always accorded him, starting from the first centuries of our era, and uninterrupted from the Middle Ages. That reality which the international community recognises is commonly called "the Papacy," the centre of unity and of communion for the local churches, an entity which enjoys, with respect to other states, an uncontested sovereignty.

Besides being among the oldest international entities engaged in diplomatic activity, the Holy See also exerts a special kind of diplomacy. For what it lacks in the fields of military, economic and financial might, it makes up for in the realm of moral suasion. The Holy See seeks to use its moral force for the good, first of all, of the Church around the world and for the protection and advancement of peace and the human rights of all peoples.

Faithful to its mission, the Holy See attempts to make an impact on the level of principles. It seeks to be a voice of conscience for humankind. It does not offer specific political or technical solutions; such solutions are the task of others and are beyond the Holy See's mission. Occasionally in modern times the Holy See has been called in as the arbitrator between disputing states; the role of the Holy See in settling the sovereignty dispute between Chile and Argentina over the Beagle Islands is a case in point. Yet rarely does the Holy See serve in such a capacity. Castelgandolfo is not Camp David.

It seeks rather to continually raise questions of morality and human rights, to continually speak for dialogue as the only acceptable alternative to violence, and to offer its good offices in whatever way it can to help the process of peace and justice internationally. It does this through a multi-faceted approach that includes private diplomacy, public papal pronouncements, both written and spoken, and at times the dispatching of papal emissaries to trouble spots. It includes meetings between the Pope and other officials of the Holy See with a vast array of representatives of governments, religions, and international organisations. It also calls upon day-by-day collaboration of papal nuncios working in the 117 countries with which the Holy See has full diplomatic relations, as well as within a number of international organisations such as the United Nations here in New York.

The Holy See and the Middle East

What is the Holy See's interest in the area of the Middle East? The population of the Middle East is overwhelmingly Muslim. Yet given the church's solicitude for the human person, the Holy See is concerned that the human rights and legitimate aspirations of all peoples in the Middle East be respected. Along with this concern, and, indeed, as a logical consequence of it, the Holy See seeks deeply its responsibility toward the Catholic communities in that region, who, as you know, live among Muslim majorities.

The Holy See has pursued that aim in two ways: first, by using all available private and public diplomatic channels to defend human rights, and secondly, by supporting schools and social institutions operating throughout the area.

On the diplomatic level its concern for human rights was repeatedly manifested during the Iran-Iraq war. In addition to private communications with Iraqi and Iranian leaders, Pope John Paul II addressed numerous public humanitarian appeals to the warring parties to cease hostilities. He did so during audiences for special groups, such as the visit of the Iraqi Chaldean-Bishop to the Vatican, the acceptance of the letter of credence from the new Iraqi and Iranian ambassadors to the Holy See, and often during his general audience talks and his addresses prior to the Sunday Angelus from his apartment window overlooking St. Peter's Square.

In addition, in order to give more concrete expression to his concern, in December 1985 the Pope dispatched Pope Cardinal Eusebio, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, to visit prisoners of war in Iran and Iraq. On Christmas eve the Cardinal, who carried personal messages from the Pope to the Iranian and Iraqi heads of state, met with 3,000 Iraqi prisoners of war, of whom about 80 were Christian, in Kahrizak near Tehran; on Christmas morning he celebrated mass in Tehran for 300 Christian POWs. He held similar meetings in early January 1986 with Iranian POWs in Iraq.

In this year's annual address to diplomats accredited to the Holy See, Pope John Paul mentioned again the current prisoner-of-war situation between Iran and Iraq. He said: "I cannot pass over in silence the return of the prisoners of war to their homelands. At the beginning of this New Year, which is an occasion everywhere for family reunions, how can we forget all those who have spent these holidays far from their loved ones? How can we fail to express the hope that the authorities of these two countries, assisted by the competent international organisations, will come to an agreement concerning the methods of repatriation, and thus shorten the sufferings of these men and give many families the joy of reunions so impatiently awaited?" (Address to diplomats, Jan. 9, 1989).

Regarding the use of chemical weapons in the Iran-Iraq war, the Holy Father consistently pleaded for an end to the use of such inhuman weapons. I might mention in this context that the Holy See is a signatory to the 1925 Geneva Protocol outlawing chemical weapons and participated in the international conference on chemical weapons in Paris last January.

On the practical, grassroots level, action by the Holy See for the advancement of the human person in the Middle East has been consistent and growing. Most of it is channelled through the Catholic Near East Welfare Association and the Pontifical Mission for Palestine. Set up 40 years ago by Pope Pius XII to aid the Palestinians during what was then thought to be a passing emergency, the Pontifical Mission distributed, in 1987 alone, \$6.7 million in aid — most of it to non-Christians — through its three main offices in Beirut, Amman and Jerusalem. A great portion of those contributions, I would like to add, comes from American Catholics. Traditionally the budget has gone toward the usual array of social projects. But last year about half of the budget was devoted to repairing the ravages of fighting, including \$50,000 to reconstruct the village of Alnata in northern Lebanon, and about \$700,000 to expand the Arab Society for Physiotherapy and to buy braces for Palestinians injured in the intifada.

Last year even more aid was given, and this during a period when some international relief organisations, worried about the safety of their

personnel, were tightening up operations.

Pope John Paul II most recently called attention to the non-sectarian nature of the church's actions in the field of social services in a meeting on Feb. 3 with the bishops of Arab regions. Referring to the church's social projects throughout the Middle East, the Pope said: "The impartial observer will find no other purpose or intention than that of serving the development of the human person according to God's design."

As part of the legacy of his historic pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 1964, Pope Paul VI established a number of institutions for the sake of the Arab population: the Paul VI "Bible" Institute for deaf-mute Arab children; the Arab housing society, which helps young Arab couples obtain affordable housing; and Bethlehem University. In that university, as in St. Joseph's University in Beirut and the other church-related and supported schools and social institutions, many of the students and the needy served are not Christians. Half of the students at Bethlehem University are women — in a region of the world where female university enrollment is only about half the male enrollment.

In Jerusalem, for example, of the 1,000 students who attend the Freres College, half are Muslims. Sacred Heart Institute in Haifa serves the needs of Christian, Jewish, Druze and other Muslim children who are handicapped.

Because of the church's interest in the human right to education, as well as its interest in the effective functioning of its own schools, the Holy See and the Latin-rite patriarch continue to raise questions about the prolonged closing of Bethlehem University and schools on the West Bank, some of which have not held regular sessions since October of 1987.

The Church's Homeland

In addition to its interest in defending the human rights of all peoples, the Holy See has, of course, another major interest in the Middle East. For us the Holy Land is our homeland, our country of origin; Jerusalem is the church's hometown.

Ours is a historical, incommunal religion. Our founder was born in a town a few miles from Jerusalem. For us world history reached its climax in the Old City of Jerusalem.

The vast majority of the world's Catholics and other Christians have grown up with the names of Capernaum, Nazareth, Bethlehem and Caesarea on their lips. The annals of the Early Church carry Middle Eastern dating: Joppa, Gaza, Damascus, Antioch, Tyre and Sidon. These places are familiar to the believer as the towns of Valley Stream, Yonkers or Rye, and are to a New Yorker.

Our brothers and sisters still live in these places. Just as second- and third-generation immigrants to the new world look to their roots and to those who stayed behind in order to fully understand themselves, so, too, we go back to our ecclesial roots — to those who are still there — perhaps not in large numbers, but with richness and diversity of rites, traditions and cultures unparalleled elsewhere in the world.

They are Maronites and Melkites, Copts and Armenians, Chaldean and Syrian-Catholics. There is the Latin Patriarchate in Jerusalem, under its shepherd Michel Sabbah who, like most of his faithful, is a Palestinian. In Jerusalem itself, the Catholics now number only about 18,000; these are not recent converts from Islam, but rather privileged members of the Universal Church whose lineage can be traced all the way back to Apostolic times. Indeed, it can be said that they are the original Christians and that we in the rest of the world are their converts.

"Faithful to its mission, the Holy See attempts to make an impact on the level of principles. It seeks to be a voice of conscience for humankind. It does not offer specific political or technical solutions; such solutions are the task of others and are beyond the Holy See's mission. Occasionally in modern times the Holy See has been called in as the arbitrator between disputing states; the role of the Holy See in settling the sovereignty dispute between Chile and Argentina over the Beagle Islands is a case in point. Yet rarely does the Holy See serve in such a capacity. Castelgandolfo is not Camp David."

In his Apostolic letter on Jerusalem, entitled, "Redemptio Amm," Pope John Paul made it clear that the Holy See is not only intensely interested in preserving the archaeology, artifacts and architecture of the historical Christian communities but also those communities themselves. The Holy See's concern is not just for our holy places but also for our holy people — our Christian brothers and sisters whose ancestral addresses are the streets of Jerusalem, Damascus, and Beirut. As Pope John Paul II said, "not only the monuments or the sacred places, but the whole historical Jerusalem and the existence of religious communities, their current situation and their future, cannot but affect everyone and interest everyone" (Redemptio Amm, April 20, 1984).

Our history is life-giving, even where its physical and material traces have been reduced to the stone ruins of a cathedral or to a few stone inscriptions. I, for instance, as Titular Archbishop of Segre, an ancient city located in what is now the archaeological site of El-Hach-El-Art in Tunisia, help keep alive the memory of a once thriving local church which is no more to be found on that spot.

While we commemorate the Catholic past in places like Segre, we are committed to the Catholic present and future, to the support of the rich Latin and Oriental Rites which have been present in the Holy Land since the origins of the church itself. What an incalculable loss it would be if other Middle Eastern episcopal sees were to pass into the book of memory.

This commitment is ever more urgent since, in many parts of the Middle East, our Catholic brothers and sisters constitute a church suffering. As Pope John Paul II pointed out in his meeting with the bishops of the Arab regions: "Most of you are called to exercise your ministry in difficult

socio-political circumstances. In some of your countries the faithful suffer and die in the conflicts which have marked the Middle East and the Gulf region for years" (Feb. 3, 1989). In addition to the suffering of war and violence, Christians are a minority presence in various societies, and, in certain cases, must put up with discriminatory laws.

The Holy Land

The Holy See's constant position on the Holy Land has been based upon a two-fold concern: Fulfillment of the "legitimate aspirations" of all peoples living in Palestine, and guarantees for safeguarding the life, the activities and the Holy Places of Christians, Jews and Muslims in the area, and especially the city of Jerusalem with its unique significance for believers from the three monotheistic religions.

Regarding the human rights aspect of its diplomacy, the Holy See has always engaged in "twining." It defends equally the rights of both the Israeli and Palestinian peoples to their own homeland where they can each live in freedom, dignity and security, and at peace with their neighbours.

In a speech to Jewish leaders in Miami on Sept. 11, 1987, Pope John Paul II clearly enunciated the church's constant policy:

Catholics recognise among the elements of the Jewish experience that Jews have a religious attachment to the land, which finds its roots in biblical tradition. After the tragic extermination of the Shoah, the Jewish people began a new period in their history. They have a right to a homeland, as does any civil nation, according to international law. "For the Jewish people who live in the state of Israel and who preserve in that land such precious testimonies to their history and their faith, we must ask for the desired security and the due tranquillity that is the prerogative of every nation and condition of life and of progress for every society" (Redemptio Amm, April 20, 1984). What has been said about the right to a homeland also applies to the Palestinian people, so many of whom remain homeless and refugees. While all concerned must honestly reflect on the past, Muslims no less than Jews and Christians, it is time to forge those solutions which will lead to a just, complete and lasting peace in that area. For this peace I earnestly pray.

The Pope has embraced the sufferings of both the Israeli and Palestinian peoples with compassion; he has reached out, both in word and social action, to the Palestinian families who have seen generations of their children grow up in refugee camps; and he has spoken often and most personally of the horrors of the Holocaust as one who was an eyewitness to it and his homeland of Poland.

Moreover, he has given no harbour to terrorism or reprisals, from whatever side they come because such actions have victimised, at one time or another, all peoples of the region.

Last December a Vatican communiqué said that the Pope granted an audience to Yasser Arafat in order "to encourage dialogue, which is the only means for seeking an equitable solution to the Middle East conflict, thus excluding all forms of recourse to arms or violence and above all, to terrorism and reprisal." In his New Year's address to diplomats at the Vatican on Jan. 11, 1986, the Pope unequivocally condemned terrorism which, he said, "creates a climate of insecurity."

He continued: "We are faced with a dreadful network of people who do not hesitate to kill a great number of innocent victims, and that often occurs in countries which are foreign to them, and not involved in their problems in order to disseminate panic and draw attention to their cause. Our prohibition cannot but be absolute and unambiguous."

The Pontiff also noted, however, that in certain situations just solutions have not been attained, thus leading to frustration, violence, hatred and indiscriminate reprisals which he condemned as "illegitimate solutions."

The only solution lies in negotiation and dialogue: While leading a concerted and firm action to ban terrorism from the human race, it is necessary, by negotiation, to seek, before it is too late, to get rid of everything, as far as possible, that would hinder the satisfying of the just aspirations of peoples. In particular, do we not find here the voice of justice that must be heard to arrive at a just and equitable solution of the entire question of the Middle East? (address to diplomats, Jan. 11, 1986).

To help untie that noose around the neck of the Middle East, the Holy See has welcomed to the gates of the Vatican anyone party to the Middle East situation. In the last 20 years the Pope has received in private audience Israeli Prime Ministers Golda Meir (1973) and Shimon Peres (1985); Foreign Ministers Abba Eban (1969), Moshe Dayan (1978), Yitzhak Shamir (1982), and other cabinet ministers. The Pope has met in the Vatican with His Majesty King Hussein, and with President Anwar Sadat and Hosni Mubarak of Egypt. Similarly, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat has been received twice in private audience by Pope John Paul II (in 1982 and 1988).

Countless ecumenical and religious groups, especially leaders from the Jewish community, have been received by the Pontiff and have engaged in frank dialogue.

The Holy See currently has diplomatic relations with neither Israel, nor the Kingdom of Jordan, nor the newly proclaimed Palestinian State. Referring to developments on the Palestinian question in recent months, I noted in a speech Nov. 15 at the United Nations that: "The Holy See has followed with interest the signs of goodwill which have been shown recently, and prays that they might lead to the realisations of hopes, and also to a fresh approach to long-standing questions."

The Vatican Press Office, in a communiqué Dec. 23, 1988 following Yasser Arafat's audience with the Pope said that His Holiness noted that the path to peace and justice "was still perhaps very long, and certainly difficult... still, certain recent events seem to meet the expectations of these populations."

In regard to Israel, the Holy See has pointed out that the lack of full diplomatic relations does not imply denial of the existence of the state of Israel. That such recognition exists is clear from the constant contacts which have taken place in Rome between the Pope and leaders of Israel, some of which I have already mentioned. These contacts have included official Israeli delegations to important church events such as to papal funerals; to the opening and closing of the Second Vatican Council and to the inauguration of the Pontificate of Pope John Paul II.

The Pope himself has referred publicly to the state of Israel on different occasions, notably in the Apostolic letter "Redemptio Amm" on the city of Jerusalem and in his speech to representatives of the Jewish community in Miami in 1987.

Full diplomatic relations, however, must await the resolution of certain outstanding problems, such as the issue of the rights of the Palestinians, which has been pending for more than 40 years; the status of the city of Jerusalem; the question of internationally recognised borders and the related issue of Israel's conflicts with its neighbours; and the restoration of peace in Lebanon, since the well-known aggressive operation carried out by Israel in 1982 has also contributed to the complex Lebanese crisis, and the presence of the Israeli army in the south of country continues to contribute to it.

Life on the Romanian baby-farm

By Marcus Tanner

IN LINE with most East European countries, Romania faces a falling birth rate and the prospect of population decline. But its vain attempts to reverse this trend by imposing draconian restrictions on contraception and abortion mark it out from its Communist neighbours. These measures have reached a nadir in the supervision of women of childbearing age by the health service and the police.

The obsessive pursuit of a higher birth rate has been the hallmark of Romania's policy on family health since Nicolae Ceausescu took power in 1965. At the 1984 party congress, Ceausescu announced that his aim was a birth rate of 20 per 1,000 per annum, which would raise the population from 23 million at present to 30 million by the year 2000.

So far Ceausescu has not been successful in raising the birth rate in spite of his carrot (there are material benefits for pregnant mothers) and stick approach. The birth rate has been on the decline since 1946, apart from a brief rise in 1967 after the passing of the 1966 anti-abortion law, and was down to 14 per 1,000 by the early 1980s.

All women of childbearing age are now subject to monthly compulsory pregnancy examinations at factory workplaces. Failure to obtain a certificate testifying attendance entails the complete loss of rights to dental and medical treatment, pensions and social security.

These "birth squads" also visit married women in their homes to find out whether they are pregnant. When a woman is found to be expecting a baby, failure to produce a child within nine months can result in charges being brought.

The ban on contraceptives has not been relaxed even with the discovery that there are perhaps some 30 people with AIDS. The health ministry has declared that as condoms are not effective in checking the spread of AIDS, there was no need for condoms to be reintroduced. The pill and the IUD are also unobtainable.

The non-availability of contraceptives in the 1960s led to huge numbers of abortions. In 1965, the year before the anti-abortion law came into force, there were over a million abortions — more than four for every five birth, while abortions dropped sharply to 206,000 in 1967 (and the birth rate soared), they have risen steadily ever since. The demographic effect of the restrictive law was thus temporary, but the deaths attributed to abortion rose dramatically.

Abortion has been progressively made more difficult since the anti-abortion law of 1966. People sometimes go to extreme lengths to obtain legal abortions. One mother was discovered to have persuaded her son to testify that he had impregnated his teenage sister to enable her to qualify for an "incest" abortion. And doctors have been put on trial for performing an excessive number of terminations even when they were legal. Discovery of illegal abortion entails the doctor being struck off the medical list and a

prison sentence of up to 15 years. Unwanted pregnancies are resolved in the backstreets by errant doctors of traditional "wise women," in often unhygienic conditions and with frequent casualties. One woman was found half alive in a dustbin, where an unsuccessful amateur abortionist had dumped her body.

Marriage is not a private matter but a "social private matter" according to the authorities. It is compulsory for Romanians before the age of 25 if they want to avoid paying extra taxes worth approximately 10 per cent of their salaries. Once married, it is extremely difficult to get divorced. Married couples have two years following marriage to produce a baby, and failure to do so without medical reasons also entails paying extra taxes.

In September 1986 Ceausescu attempted an explanation of his crusade: "The fetus is a socialist property of the entire society," he said. "Giving birth is a patriotic duty which is decisive for the fate of the country. Those who are deserters trying to escape the laws of national continuity."

Because marriage is seen only as a reproductive mechanism at the service of the state, women are encouraged to produce babies from whoever is willing to father them and lax morals are encouraged among youth.

Until recently, surplus children from the country's overflowing orphanages were often sold, for hard currency, to childless couples from France, Israel, Italy and Belgium, but now this adoption trade has been made illegal. Homosexuality, as a crime against reproduction, is illegal and punishable by a prison sentence.

The unwillingness of many Romanians to have children in spite of the intense propaganda campaign stems largely from poor health services and the difficulties and expense of bringing up children, compounded by rationing, food shortages, and the difficulty of obtaining even such basics as soap and nappies.

Fresh and powdered milk are in constant short supply. The government has tried to rectify this shortcoming by making powdered milk available to pregnant women who apply for it, but the forms are so complicated and the bureaucracy administering them so unwieldy that relatively few Romanian mothers take up the offer. Special baby foods are not available except to the party elite, for whom there are supplies of foreign baby magazines and baby foods imported from France.

Electricity shortages began to bite in 1979 and have remained severe ever since. In recent winters the average electricity supply for a household has been only about four hours a day. As a result, many old people and babies die in the winter blackouts. Romanian statistics on child deaths do not include babies who die within the first two months, but reliable international authorities estimate the Romanian infant mortality rate at more than twice the rate in East Germany, for example. — PEO-FILE FEATURES.

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JORDAN MARKET PLACE

Soviets fume over proposal to increase cigarette prices

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet Finance Minister Valentin Pavlov proposed a 30 per cent rise in cigarette prices Monday — and it caused so much grumbling among deputies in parliament that Mikhail Gorbachev had to call for order.

Pavlov told the Supreme Soviet, which is giving the 1990 budget a second reading, that higher taxes on tobacco would raise the equivalent of around \$2 billion for state coffers.

He also called for increases on items from beer to caviar to fund new health, education and welfare programmes and urged that the tobacco rise be carried out quickly to offhead hoarding.

"We call your attention to the price in tobacco... the government is asking that the price change be carried out immediately," he told deputies.

"Otherwise we will have another washing powder situation," he said, referring to consumer hoarding of washing powder and soap in the past year because of price rises.

Cigarettes cost 40 kopeks (64 cents) a pack and Pavlov said that by raising taxes on these and luxury items such as beer, caviar and crab meat the state could raise 2.97 billion roubles (\$4.6 billion). About half would come from tobacco.

Pavlov said public organisations, including the Communist Party, should sell their Volga luxury cars and the state should stop funding the exhibition of economic achievements, a huge display of Soviet technology in Moscow.

The money earned by these proposals could finance badly needed social programmes without increasing the proposed budget deficit of nearly 60 billion roubles (\$96 billion).

Pensions for military and police officers could be raised, and more money could go to everything from maternity wards to children's hospitals and orphanages.

In backing the price hikes, Pavlov signalled government support for proposals worked out by several parliament committees following the budget's first reading last month, but it was far from clear if the proposals would be approved.

Economic analysts said consumers already facing shortages

of essential goods from meat to soap were unlikely to accept price rises equitably even if they only affected luxury items.

Debate on the proposed budget was expected to continue for most of this week. The government-backed proposal puts expenditure at 493.3 billion roubles (\$796 billion) with income at 434.1 billion roubles (\$700 billion).

Moscow wants the budget deficit, currently 120 billion roubles (\$200 billion), to be halved within a year.

Senior Soviet economists, at a meeting last week with Gorbachev, told the Kremlin leader that his "perestroika" reform programme hinged on quick action to provide disgruntled consumers with scarce household goods.

"If the consumer market does not improve in the near future, there will be insufficient stimulus to improve work... belief in the future will drain away," economist Abel Aganbeyan told the meeting, Monday's Pravda said.

"We cannot delay even one week. Only with each real measure will the population feel improvements in the country's economic situation. We need an emergency programme to sort out the consumer market and improve people's well-being," he added.

Aganbeyan called for measures to "tie up" the hundreds of billions of unspent roubles held by consumers facing empty store shelves. He suggested issuing attractive government bonds or offering state-owned dwellings for sale to the public.

The government newspaper Izvestia said the latest few bright economic statistics were misleading.

The daily was analysing data released by the state committee on statistics (Goskomstat) on the economy's performance in the first nine months of 1989.

The figures showed that strikes, ethnic conflicts and high wage rises had particularly

slowed the economy since July. Imports were outstripping exports, the energy sector was in disarray and work stoppages had cost billions of roubles, particularly in the coal industry.

The figures also indicated that the Soviet grain harvest, although expected to be larger than in 1988, was proceeding more slowly than last year. One farm expert suggested losses in production could push the figure lower.

Izvestia took issue with figures showing a substantial increase in the production of consumer goods, including appliances, detergents and winter clothes.

"Why are our store shelves just as empty as before? The daily asked, saying the explanation lay in the way the figures were compiled.

Just over eight billion roubles (\$13 billion) of the increase were accounted for by liquor sales and a further six billion (\$10 billion) by price increases. Goods worth three billion roubles (\$5 billion) were siphoned off by factories to sell to their own employees, it said.

Recent public opinion polls revealed that most Soviet citizens feel they have gained little from the reforms.



Planning Minister Ziyad Fariz (second from right) and Italy's ambassador in Jordan sign the cooperation agreement (Petra photo)

Jordan, Italy sign accord

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Italy Monday signed an economic and technical cooperation agreement paving the way for an increase in the volume of exchanged goods and the implementation of joint economic ventures involving private sectors from both countries.

The agreement provided the

basis for cooperation in technical and economic fields and created a joint committee to follow up the implementation of projects financed through Italian aid to Jordan.

The two sides agreed to organise a meeting for the Jordanian-Italian Economic Committee

whenever necessary to follow up the execution of schemes and to deal with problems that could impede projects.

Planning Minister Ziyad Fariz and Italy's ambassador to Jordan, Francesco de Curten, signed the agreement at the Ministry of Planning.

EC, ACP fail to clinch agreement

LUXEMBOURG (R) — Ministers from the European Community (EC) and 66 Third World countries Monday failed to agree on a trade and aid treaty to succeed the third Lomé convention, diplomats said.

Talks stalled on their third and final day when the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) group of developing states refused to accept EC proposals for trade concessions under the new treaty.

The two sides agreed to continue discussions soon.

"There are many differences on the question of trade," said Mauritanian Agriculture Minister Muridias Dullio. "But we have not rejected the EC proposals outright."

"Every significant progress has been made on many important subjects," French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, who chairs

the Community ministers, told a news conference.

Trade breaks and the amount of money the EC would put behind the new pact were the only sticking points left, he said, adding that he was confident the two sides would resolve their differences in time to sign a new accord before the end of December.

He said it was his aim to reach a Community agreement on the convention's financial volume before the two sides met again in November.

The ACP and the EC had agreed on commodities compensation, a ban on exports of toxic and radioactive waste, rum and banana exports and extending the treaty to 10 years, he said.

Dumas said the Third World countries had asked to postpone further talks to give them time to consider their response to the EC

proposals on trade concessions. Community diplomats said the 12 member states felt the developing nations had not sufficiently prepared their position and needed more time to reach agreement among themselves.

"It's time we got past the stage of slapping a shopping list on the table," one French diplomat said. Some diplomats said the election of Ethiopian Ghebray Berhane as the new ACP secretary-general in the small hours of Sunday morning had created in-

ternal divisions that made it hard for the group to reach a consensus.

Dullio said the ACP found it difficult to negotiate when the financial size of the new convention had not been broached.

The ACP have asked for 15.5 billion European Currency Units (ECUs) (\$16.6 billion), compared with 7.5 billion ECUs of aid (\$8 billion), and another billion in soft loans under the current convention.

Inter Continental to build new luxury hotel in Japan

TOKYO (Agencies) — Plans for a 613 room luxury hotel in Japan were unveiled by Inter Continental Hotels Corp., heralding the advent of the international hotel company's development activity.

Officials from the Inter Continental headquarters in Montvale, New Jersey joined officials from the joint venture company of Hotel New Grand Saison Yokohama to sign an agreement for the new waterfront property — the Yokohama Grand Inter Continental Hotel — which is being built at the port of Yokohama, 18 miles south of Tokyo.

The hotel will be constructed next to the Pacifico Yokohama convention centre, an international convention hall, conference centre and exhibition hall. The hotel will offer 49 suites, seven of them are Japanese style, and ocean views from 80 per cent of the rooms. There will be grand banquet hall, two banquet rooms, five small meeting rooms and seven dining suites as well as a complete health club and eight food and beverage outlets.

Inter Continental's development activities have skyrocketed since the acquisition of the company by Saison Overseas (Holdings) which is comprised of the

Saison Group of Japan and Scandinavian Airlines system. The hotel group opened the Forum Hotel Glasgow last month and next week opens the Forum Hotel Chicago. The Hotel Inter Continental Chicago, the sister hotel to the Forum Hotel Chicago is slated to open in January 1990. Other 1990 openings include the Hotel Inter Continental in Toronto in March and the Hotel Inter Continental Montreal in December. The Hotel Inter Continental Manzanillo, the company's second resort in Mexico and third hotel in the Latin American country, will open in spring 1990.

In the Pacific/Asia region, Inter Continental will open the overseas Forum Hotel in Shenzhen, its first property in the People's Republic of China in January 1990. A number of projects are currently under consideration for development in the Pacific Rim, as well in North America, Latin America and the Soviet Union.

Inter Continental also has been increasing its equity positions in a number of hotels including Berlin, Athens, Toronto and Montreal and has purchased its hotels in Miami and Chicago outright.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Jordan to display products in Iraq

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan will participate in the 26th Baghdad International Trade Fair due to open in Baghdad Wednesday. The 15-day exhibition is designed to exchange information and expertise as well as promote economic and technical cooperation among the participating countries. A total of 2,000 firms from sixty four countries have so far expressed desire to participate. Fahal Merza Mahmoud, director general of trade fairs and trade services, said five countries — Chad, Hong Kong, Malia, Zambia, Zimbabwe — would be exhibiting for the first time. Iraq is expected to display five types of locally-produced cars, along with an Iraqi-made robot. Mahmoud said the state industrial sector would be given priority in agreeing deals with foreign producers.

Poland continues to devalue zloty

WARSAW (R) — Poland has devalued the zloty by 12.6 per cent continuing its drive to narrow the vast gap between the free market and official rates for the currency. The National Bank set the new rate at 2,400 zloties to the dollar against 2,098 Friday, according to figures published by the government newspaper Rzeczpospolita. It was the third substantial devaluation since the Solidarity-led government took over on Sept. 12. The government's aim is to unite the official and free market rates of the zloty against the dollar to make the local currency convertible on the domestic market. Since Sept. 12, the official rate of the zloty has been devalued from 1,441 to the dollar to 2,400 while the free market rate has dropped from around 12,000 zloties to the dollar to 7,500. Officials expect the two rates to meet somewhere between 4,000 and 5,000 zloties within three to six months. The zloty has now been devalued 13 times since the start of this year, dropping from 503 to the dollar and losing 80 per cent of its official value.

Kuwait donates \$2m to Mubarak City

CAIRO (R) — Kuwaiti Emir Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah donated \$2 million for the construction of a city for scientific research in Egypt named after President Hosni Mubarak, local newspapers reported.

Iran plans \$4.8b railway expansion

NICOSIA (R) — Iran plans to spend 350 billion rials (\$4.8 billion at the official rate) to expand its railway network, Roads and Transport Deputy Minister Sadeq Afshar has said. He added that 1,500 kilometres of railway track would be built during the next five-year plan, which is due to be debated in parliament soon.

China struggles with computer fraud

BEIJING (R) — Computer fraud is booming in China, with theft of confidential information as well as money, as security systems are unable to keep pace with the growing skill of the criminals, the People's Daily has said. Since the first fraud was discovered in July 1986 at an office of the People's Bank of China in Shenzhen, 15 major cases had been found, the paper said. The biggest was the theft of 870,000 yuan (\$235,000) from a bank in Chengdu in March 1988. The number of computer frauds has mushroomed in recent years, with 10,000 in use, as well as 30,000 miniature models; but security systems, effective management controls and regulations to govern their use have not kept up, the People's Daily said. Criminals have also stolen secrets and intelligence from the computers, the newspaper said but gave no more details.

Debt crisis troubles Pope

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope John Paul II has urged an end to the international debt crisis and said 20th Century prosperity has proved "distorted and unbalanced." The Pope has previously urged debt relief for the Third World, but his speech last week was particularly strong. "Mankind has never known an era of prosperity even vaguely comparable to that which the world in this second half of the 20th Century has come to enjoy," John Paul said. "And yet, this prosperity, on closer analysis, has proved to be distorted and unbalanced. It is a prosperity which benefits but a small proportion of mankind, while leaving the majority of the world's inhabitants in a state of underdevelopment." The Polish-born Pontiff pointed in particular to the debt problem, saying it "has become a symbol of already existing imbalances and injustices whose burden is often borne by the poorest segments of the population, and it points to an apparent inability to reverse a baneful process which seems at times to take on a life of its own." He called for greater human solidarity in solving the problem.

Turkey buys Soviet gold

ANKARA (AP) — Turkey purchased 90 kilograms of gold from the Soviet Union, the first time it made such a buy from Moscow, a central bank official has said. Yaman Turner, money markets director at the central bank, told the Associated Press. Turkey would buy another 300 kilograms of gold from the Soviet Union this week. In the past Turkey has made its gold purchases only from Switzerland and West Germany. Turner said the Soviets charged \$17 per kilogram for the transportation, melting and insurance of the gold. The same expenses for the Swiss and West German gold run from \$30 to \$34, he added. Another official said that Turkey also had plans to buy gold from South Africa. Turkey's entire gold reserve is 140 tons.

New copper discoveries enliven Omani hopes

MUSCAT (AP) — New copper finds in northern Oman have revived hopes that the Gulf state's fledgling copper export industry will be viable into the 21st Century, a senior minerals official has said.

Mohammad Kassim, director-general of minerals, said preliminary studies conducted in association with Japanese government experts in the Yanqul region have shown proven reserves of a minimum seven million tons of copper ore, guaranteeing commercial production for another 14 years with further possibilities after that.

He said that this was consi-

dered "very encouraging" from an economic point of view.

Prior to the Yanqul discoveries, Oman's copper reserves were reported to be depleting and were not expected to last for more than five years, according to the latest issue of the Central Bank of Oman publication Al Markazi. But it also referred to feasibility studies indicating prospects of more finds.

The 10-year-old state-owned Oman Mining Co., which is recognised by the London Metal Exchange, began exporting refined copper cathodes in 1983 from its \$200 million smelter and

refinery located in Sohar on the Gulf of Oman coast.

The complex was set up with a \$100 million grant from the Saudi Fund for Development in an attempt to provide the Gulf state with its first non-oil related heavy industry.

The main ore deposits located at Lasail, 16 kilometres west of Sohar, also in northern Oman, contain approximately two per cent copper and smaller amounts of gold and silver. Refined exports total around 16,000 tons per annum.

Al Markazi reported that Oman's mining industry registered a record 14 million rials (\$36 million) contribution to gross domestic product last year, due to what it called a significant hike in copper prices on the world market. It said the average price for Omani copper rose by about 57 per cent during 1988.

The new finds, according to Kassim, were also expected to produce an additional half ton of associated gold per annum.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Monday October 30, 1989
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	100.7	101.7
U.S. dollar	628.0	634.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	441.2	445.6
Pound Sterling	985.3	995.2	Dutch guilder	303.1	306.1
Deutschemark	342.1	345.5	Swedish crown	98.1	99.1
Swiss franc	390.8	394.7	Italian lira (for 100)	46.5	47.0
			Belgian franc (for 10)	162.8	164.4

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.5710/20	U.S. dollars	
One U.S. dollar	1.1740/50	Canadian dollar	
	1.8348/55	Deutschemarks	
	2.0710/17	Dutch guilders	
	1.6045/55	Swiss francs	
	38.51/54	Belgian francs	
	6.2200/50	French francs	
	1346/1347	Italian lire	
	142.00/10	Japanese yen	
	6.3925/75	Swedish crowns	
	6.8800/50	Norwegian crowns	
	7.1450/1500	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	378.10/378.60	U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Australia's share market recovered nearly half of Friday's losses in a rally inspired by a surge in the price of gold. The All Ordinaries index finished 15.1 higher at 1,637.1.

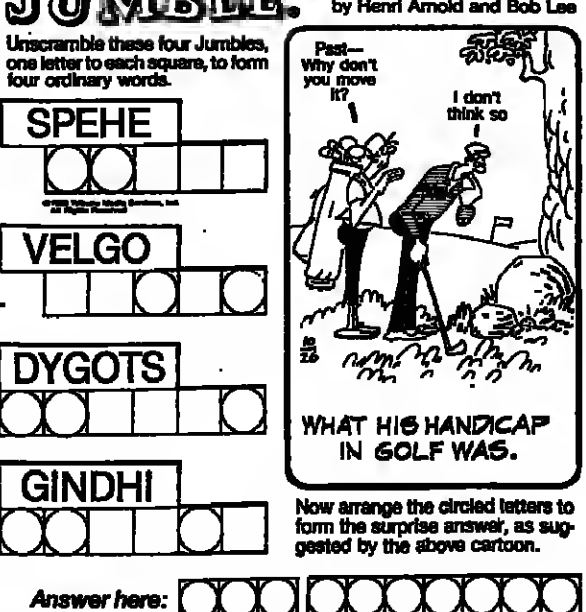
TOKYO — Profit-taking on issues that rose last week and foreign arbitrageurs selling stocks underlying the index forced down prices. The Nikkei index fell 109.85 to 35,417.44.

HONG KONG — Share prices closed firmer, off early gains, in quiet trading. Investors bought on the strength of possible disclosure of inner reserves by Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corp. The Hang Seng index rose 12.31 to 2,680.30.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee



Answer here: (Answers tomorrow)
Yesterday's Jumble: ADULT GUESS CORNEA UNSOLD
Answer: What he said his wife's reasoning largely was — "SOUND"

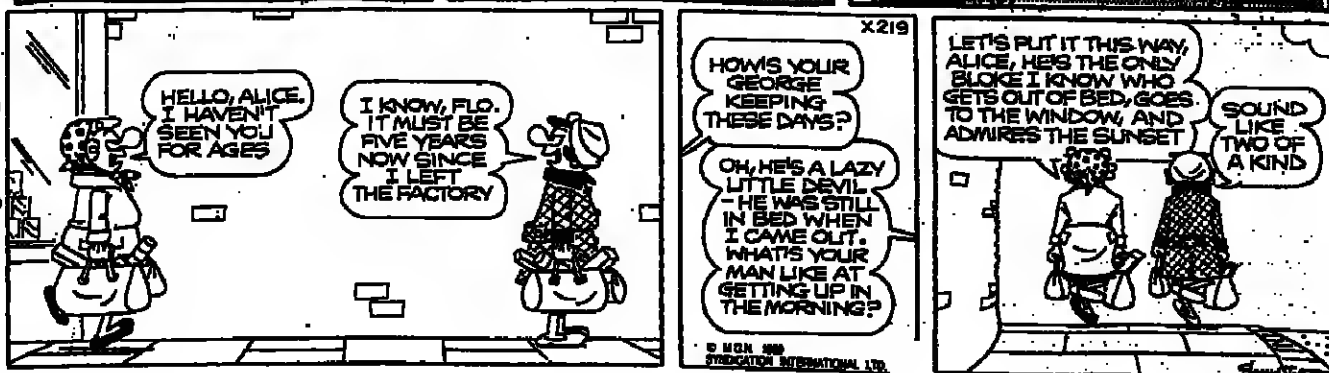
Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Chess championship: Soviets defeat U.S.

LUCERNE, Switzerland (AP) — The Soviet Union defeated the United States 3-1 in the second round of the chess world team championships to seize a commanding 1.5-point lead in the competition.

The Soviets have 6.5 points out of a possible eight. Hungary, which drew 2-2 England, is second with five points.

In an outcome which astonished chess experts, Africa scored a giant-killing 2.5-1.5 victory over the Netherlands.

Africa seized the lead when their fourth board, international master Slim Bouaziz of Tunisia, outplayed international master Rini Kuif.

The Netherlands, who rested their two top players Sunday, are considered serious contenders for the bronze medals.

"They underestimated us," said Assem Afifi of Egypt, the African top board.

The championship is staged every four years and features nine

of the leading chess-playing nations plus Africa. A win scores one point, a draw scores a half point.

In other matches, Yugoslavia beat Switzerland 2.5-1.5 to move into third place with 4.5 points. Cuba and China are tied at 1.5 points apiece in their encounter, with one unfinished game.

In the U.S.-Soviet clash, New York grandmaster John Federowicz drew in 22 moves with the disadvantage of the black pieces against Jean Ehlvest, while on board 1 Yasser Seirawan of the United States drew with Alexander Beliavsky.

But Nick de Firmian lost on time a difficult position against Vassily Ivanchuk, a 20-year-old Soviet ranked joint third in the world.

The second victory came when Soviet grandmaster Mikhail Gurevich ground out a win against Dmitry Gurevich, a Soviet emigre grandmaster living in Chicago.

Peace championship opens in Kuwait

KUWAIT (AP) — The emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah Monday opened the Friendship and Peace Championship, the first sports tournament confined to states of the 46 member Organisation of Islamic Conference.

"In the name of God, we hereby declare opened the Friendship and Peace Championship on the land of Kuwait, the land of peace and friendship," the emir stated in his capacity of chairman of the OIC.

The Islamic sports carnival was opened with a lavish celebration at the Kazimah club stadium with the participation of more than

1,200 sportsmen from 45 countries.

The opening ceremony was attended by the president of the International Olympic Committee, Juan Antonio Samaranch, and other prominent international sports figures.

It was organized by special instructions from the emir with the stated aim of promoting friendship and solidarity among Islamic youth.

Prominent among the participants were the soccer teams of Iraq and Iran, the two neighbouring countries whose eight years of war almost sucked Kuwait into the hostilities.

Kuwaiti officials have been stressing that participation of Iraq and Iran with two soccer teams in the tournament will help achieve the championship's goals. The two teams are in group B of the soccer games which also include Yemen and Guinea.

Contests will be held in five sports — soccer, track and field, volleyball, basketball, and handball — at different venues in Kuwait.

Samaranch addressed the ceremony by commending the initiative of the emir aimed at "bringing more solidarity among the youth of the world."

The Olympic chief said: "May I say how happy and proud I am to be among you today at the opening ceremony of the first friendship and peace games uniting athletes from 45 countries from Asia and Africa."

Lendl wins ECC title

ANTWERP, Belgium (AP) — Ivan Lendl beat fellow Czech Miloslav Mecir 6-2, 6-2, 1-6, 6-4 Sunday to win the \$1,050,000 European Community Championship for the fifth time in the eight-year history of the exhibition event.

The world's number one player earned the \$220,000 first prize, relying on his searing forehand and some rare delicate touches to keep a sullen Mecir unsettled for most of the match.

Mecir, ranked 25th in the world, only got some momentum going in the third set because Lendl lost concentration and almost gave the set away.

"Lendl played some of his best tennis in the first two sets," said Mecir.

Ivan Lendl

As soon as Lendl trailed by two service breaks in the third set, Lendl said he "did not want to fight and still lost 7-5."

"I wanted to save energy," said Lendl, who has been complaining of fatigue.

For Lendl, it was his fifth win in six attempts here. He has yet to lose a final on the supreme court at the sports palace.

With his second victory in three years he is again on target for the \$750,000 diamond cup, which goes to the first player to win the event three times in a five-year span.

He won his first gold-and-diamond racket in 1985.

Defending champion John McEnroe has won the three other editions of the event, but is still in search of a diamond. He lost in the semifinals against Mecir this year.

Despite his opulent record here, Lendl still seemed hungrier for victory than Mecir, who played his third losing ECC final. Mecir left with \$150,000.

In the opening set, Lendl hit plenty of forehands for clear win-

ners, and as Mecir could not control the range on his back-court shots, he sped to a 6-2 win in less than half an hour.

Lendl, winner of nine events this year to regain his number one ranking, mixed his powerful game with the subtle drop shots and surprising changes of pace to overwhelm Mecir again in the second set for another 6-2 win.

His overwhelming demonstration in the first two sets made his bungling in the third all the more surprising.

Rather than Mecir winning points, Lendl seemed bent on losing them. He sent drives long or wide with reckless abandon. He lost all four of his service games to give the set away. The crowd of 17,000 at the sports palace even whistled him.

Lendl got his mind on tennis again in the fourth set and it showed.

"I knew I was going to play better again, and so did he," said Lendl.

Precision came back slowly and he made timely runs to the net to

take Mecir's service game twice in three attempts. It was all that was needed.

After losing his first service game of the set, he held on for the rest of the match.

He became more careful and often simply kept the ball in play until Mecir would produce an unforced error.

"I was playing too aggressive and he was strong in defence," said Mecir.

Mecir, who has been suffering from a back injury, lost heart and strength along the way and was often flatfooted when Lendl winner sailed by.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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DISCOVER WHAT?

Both vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH
♠ A K 3
♥ 7
♦ K 5 4 2
♣ Q 9 8 2

EAST
♠ J 10 8 6 2
♥ K 5 4
♦ J 10 7 3
♣ A Q 9 6

WEST
♠ 9 5
♥ K 5 4
♦ J 10 7 3
♣ A 7 3

SOUTH
♠ 7 4
♥ A Q J 10 9 2
♦ Q
♣ K J 10 6 4

The bidding:
East South West North
2 ♠ 3 ♥ 3 ♠ 3 NT
4 ♠ 5 ♠ Pass 5 ♠
Pass 6 ♠ Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ace of ♠.

If this hand looks familiar, it's because we started discussing it in Friday's column. The theme of the hand is "discovery," and we'll look at what happened in the other room of an all-expert team match, where the contract was the same—six clubs.

Here, too, West led the ace of clubs to cut down on dummy's ruffing ability, and continued the suit. And the declarer in this room did exactly what his opposite number did in the other—he won the second trick in dummy to lead the king of diamonds in an attempt to find out who held the ace.

But at this table East looked a bit deeper into the situation. The king of diamonds was an unusual play. If declarer had a diamond loser, he probably held no more than one spade, so why didn't he cash the spades for a discard? If declarer was void in diamonds, one discard was unlikely to help him, so East bravely followed with a low diamond.

Declarer ruffed, and thought he had all the information he needed. It looked like the ace of diamonds was with West, and he had already shown up with the ace of clubs. Therefore, East had to have the king of hearts for his opening weak two-bid. So declarer crossed to the king of spades and confidently led a heart to his nine. He was more than somewhat surprised when the finest lost to West. Down one.

THE Daily Crossword by Evelyn Barish

ACROSS

- Traffic sign
- Spoken
- Infield ball
- verb
- Slender
- negative
- In any way
- Of some
- poetry
- Hot place
- Reduced
- Turkey's kin
- and syllable
- Without exception
- London landmark
- Actor-Skinner
- Met song
- Stupid talk
- Humble
- Farmstead
- Fish eggs
- Intervened
- Moose or copperhead
- Kermanshah
- Actor
- East
- Attire
- Petticoat
- Alarm
- Tower
- Baselium
- In unbroken sequence
- Account entry
- On the briny
- Elegant fabric
- It's resort
- Minute
- Forest of —
- Shortly
- Wears away
- Salesman

DOWN

- Box
- Fictional dog
- Hyalite
- Influence
- Investigate
- Detector
- Clapton
- Mail boat
- Harassing (someone)
- Gadabout
- Miner's action
- Accommodate
- Middy
- Say it isn't so
- Container
- Obstacles
- Abandon's land
- First name in
- Game for two
- Candle
- Desert dweller
- Triumphed
- Longing
- Broad
- Whirlpool
- Altered
- Blind as —
- Partial refund
- Franchise
- Kind of slave
- Formula of belief
- Bloodhound's need
- Endorse
- monster
- Minor
- Nae
- Helper
- Regatta group
- Painter
- Rockwell

Yesterday's Puzzle Answer:

ACROSS: 1. TARDIS, 2. MUMBLE, 3. INFIELD, 4. VERB, 5. SLIM, 6. NEGATIVE, 7. IN ANY WAY, 8. OF SOME, 9. POETRY, 10. HOT PLACE, 11. REDUCED, 12. TURKEY'S KIN, 13. — AND SYLLABLE, 14. WITHOUT EXCEPTION, 15. LONDON LANDMARK, 16. ACTOR-SKINNER, 17. MET SONG, 18. STUPID TALK, 19. HUMBLE, 20. FARMSTEAD, 21. FISH EGGS, 22. INTERVENED, 23. MOOSE OR COPPERHEAD, 24. KERMANSHAH, 25. ACTOR, 26. EAST, 27. ATTIRE, 28. PETTICOAT, 29. ALARM, 30. TOWER, 31. BASILISK, 32. IN UNBROKEN SEQUENCE, 33. ACCOUNT ENTRY, 34. ON THE BRINY, 35. ELEGANT FABRIC, 36. IT'S RESORT, 37. MINUTE, 38. FOREST OF —, 39. SHORTLY, 40. WEARS AWAY, 41. SALESMAN.

DOWN: 1. BOX, 2. FICTIONAL DOG, 3. HYALITE, 4. INFLUENCE, 5. INVESTIGATE, 6. DETECTOR, 7. CLAPTON, 8. MAIL BOAT, 9. HARASSING (SOMEONE), 10. GADABOUT, 11. MINER'S ACTION, 12. ACCOMMODATE, 13. MIDDY, 14. SAY IT ISN'T SO, 15. CONTAINER, 16. OBSTACLES, 17. ABANDON'S LAND, 18. FIRST NAME IN, 19. GAME FOR TWO, 20. CANDLE, 21. DESERT DWELLER, 22. TRIUMPHED, 23. LONGING, 24. BROAD, 25. WHIRLPOOL, 26. ALTERED, 27. BLIND AS —, 28. PARTIAL REFUND, 29. FRANCHISE, 30. KIND OF SLAVE, 31. FORMULA OF BELIEF, 32. BLOODHOUND'S NEED, 33. ENDORSE, 34. MONSTER, 35. MINOR, 36. NAE, 37. HELPER, 38. REGATTA GROUP, 39. PAINTER, 40. ROCKWELL.

Graf wins Brighton tourney

BRIGHTON (AP) — Steffi Graf captured her 13th tournament title of the year Sunday by defeating Monica Seles 7-5, 6-4 in a seesaw final in which each player ran off impressive streaks.

Graf, the top women's tennis player in the world, claimed the championship of the \$25,000 indoor tournament in Brighton for the second consecutive year.

The West German, who earned \$50,000 with the victory, now has won 13 of the 15 tournaments in which she has played this year. Her only losses came in the final of the French Open in June to Arantxa Sanchez and to Gabriela Sabatini in April at Amelia Island, Florida.

"I was not happy with my form earlier in the week but today was definitely better," Graf said. "But I still made some mistakes that are not so usual."

Graf took a 4-2 lead in the first set, but the 15-year-old Seles won the next three games to take a 5-4 lead. However, Graf responded with a three-game winning streak of her own to claim the set 7-5.

The third-seeded Seles, a Yugoslavian who lives in Florida, was overpowered for the first six games of the second set as Graf moved in and started hitting her returns earlier.

Seles fell behind 5-1 in the second set, then won three games in a row to pull within 5-4. But

after saving one match point on a ball that hit the net and fell onto Graf's side of the court, Seles hit a service return wide on the second match point she faced.

"Monica made the match very difficult for me," said Graf, who defeated Seles 6-0, 6-1 on the grass at Wimbledon this summer. "She is definitely a great player and I had a lot of work to do today."

Seles, who must now focus on a mid-week history test at the Bradenton Academy where she attends high school, said she was pleased with making the final in Brighton — a tournament she had planned to skip until changing her mind at the last minute.

Real Madrid sends warning to Milan

SPANISH champions Real Madrid, lambasted last week by manager John Toshack for their lack of commitment, silenced the critics at the weekend with a 5-2 demolition of Sevilla.

But in Italy, their European Cup rivals AC Milan slumped to 1-0 defeat to lowly Ascoli in what should have been an easy match, while Argentine World Cup captain Diego Maradona scored a penalty to keep Napoli at the top with a 1-1 draw.

Real, who meet AC Milan Wednesday for a place in the European Cup quarter-finals, made Toshack a happy man with a will that chased away any self-doubts still lingering from their 2-0 first-leg defeat to the European champions in Milan.

"Without doubt, today's 5-2 is good enough for me for Wednesday," Toshack declared after Saturday's game. The previous

weekend, the Welshman had accused his players of lacking drive and not working hard enough on the pitch.

This week, he worried instead that his players were nervous through striving too hard to please him.

Before Saturday, Sevilla's Soviet keeper Rinat Dasyev had let in just six goals. Real's swooping striker Emilio Butragueno, out for the past three weeks with an ankle injury, helped bring Dasyev's tally swiftly into double figures.

His goal marked a joyful return to form and sent a direct warning to an injury-hit Milan, who were left to bear the wrath of the Italian press for their dismal showing.

"Milan, you've got no defence," yelled the Gazzetta Dello Sport, a sentiment echoed by the team's keeper Giovanni Galli.

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